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READING ROOM

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Mubarak says Peres is flexible

WASHINGTON (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has praised Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for flexibility and says a meeting between them could take place if a small territorial issue is resolved. The Washington Post reported Monday. The Egyptian leader said in an interview the only issue blocking a meeting was the Tabah border dispute. "Peres has shown very good flexibility," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as saying. "He is doing his best really. The only thing is Tabah." Mr. Mubarak accused the United States of attempting to weaken the role of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Middle East peace talks. "Trying to solve the problem and, at the same time, trying to ignore the PLO — this will never lead to a comprehensive peace," he said. He said U.S. attempts to water down Palestinian representation on a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team had wasted more than six months in a crucial period.

Velayati leaves Riyadh for UAE

RIYADH (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left here on Sunday for Abu Dhabi after talks which included efforts to find a solution to the five-year-old Iran-Iraq war. During a two-day visit, Mr. Velayati met King Fahd in the highest level contacts between the two countries since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. The King outlined to the Iranian minister an undisclosed plan to end the Iran-Iraq war. Arab diplomats told the AP on Sunday, Mr. Velayati had two sessions with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, who said their talks included efforts to find a quick end to the Gulf conflict. Mr. Velayati later arrived in Abu Dhabi and was expected to meet the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi, during a 24-hour stay, diplomatic sources said. The UAE historically has close ties with Iran as a result of centuries of trade between the two.

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Jordan, N.Yemen sign protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and North Yemen on Monday signed the first trade protocol of the Joint Jordanian-Yemeni Committee. The protocol, which aims at developing trade exchange between the two countries, was signed by Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher on the Jordanian side and North Yemeni Minister of Economy and Industry Ahmad Zaid Barakat. The protocol encourages the establishment of joint ventures and the exchange of visits by economists to both countries. Under the agreement, trade centres would be established in both countries to encourage and facilitate commercial transactions between the two countries.

Mayors return from Rabat talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawahdeh and Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzaq Tubeshat returned from Rabat on Monday after attending meetings of the Arab Cities Organisation's permanent bureau. In an arrival statement, Mr. Rawahdeh said the agenda of the fifth conference of the organisation to be held in Riyadh in March was drawn up during the Rabat meeting. Mr. Rawahdeh added that the Jordanian cities will get a good share of the organisation's loans.

Foreign workers to undergo bilharzia and TB tests

AMMAN (Petra) — Non-Jordanians arriving in Jordan for work will have to undergo a medical examination to ensure that they are free from bilharzia and tuberculosis and will not be issued with permits unless they obtain such a certificate from hospitals, the health minister said Monday. During a meeting at the malaria and bilharzia department, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said a number of hospitals have been assigned to do X-ray for chest and to make urine routine tests to ensure that the person examined is free from both tuberculosis and bilharzia. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Labour to ensure that all applicants have certificates to the effect that they are free from these diseases prior to issuing them work permits. The Ministry of Health's hospitals have so far examined 72,000 persons and found out that 14,000 have bilharzia and that the majority of them have been treated free of charge. The tests also showed that 448 persons had malaria.

Indonesian official ends 3-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general and chairman of the board of directors of the Indonesian Petrochemical Company left Amman after a three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with the deputy prime minister and ministers of planning and industry and trade and directors of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC), the Jordan Fertilisers Industry and the Arab Fertiliser Company. JPMC Director-General Wassef Azar said he held talks with the Indonesian guest on a five-year agreement under which Jordan will supply Indonesia with 410,000 tonnes of phosphates until the end of this year and 600,000 tonnes next year.

8 Israeli soldiers killed, 7 injured in army barracks fire

DFLP claims responsibility for W.Bank attack, also says 2 Israelis killed in Galilee shootout

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Eight Israeli soldiers were killed and seven others injured in a pre-dawn fire that destroyed an army barracks in the occupied West Bank on Monday.

In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on Monday claimed responsibility for blasting an Israeli army building in the West Bank.

It said in a statement that DFLP fighters operating in the occupied territories had "managed to infiltrate into an Israeli army building and planted a number of explosive charges."

It did not say exactly where the operation took place but said it was in retaliation for "Israeli practices against Palestinians."

The blaze occurred at 1:30 a.m. (2330 GMT) in an army base near the Jewish settlement of Maaleh Efraim, about 18 kilometres west of Jordan River.

"It was a terrible sight. Tongues of flame were shooting out the windows," the camp's deputy commander said on Israeli Radio. "Soldiers were crowding around helplessly. We managed to pull out one soldier by the skin of his teeth. But then the fire overcame us, and we couldn't do any more," said the commander.

Rescuers said they were not able to use a fire hydrant to put out the blaze because the only hydrant on the camp was too close to the burning building, the radio said.

The army camp's generator had been turned off for the night, eliminating the possibility of an electrical blaze, the radio said.

The barracks was a pre-fabricated, 16-room building

made of highly flammable materials, the radio reported. A few dozen soldiers slept in sleeping bags in the building.

The Israeli army said the seven soldiers suffered light to moderate injuries.

The Israeli military censor banned immediate publication of some details of the incident.

Army trackers and military police found no sign of sabotage, Israeli Radio said.

It said the fire broke out in the barracks while dozens of soldiers slept. Most of them fled through windows, but others were caught in their sleeping bags, complicating rescue efforts.

The DFLP also said on Monday two Israeli hostages were killed and three of its men wounded and captured in a highway shootout with Israeli troops in northern Galilee.

In a communique issued in Beirut the DFLP said that other commanders "returned safely to base"

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20 students leave hospital after recovering from effects of gas

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Twenty students of a girls' school in Deir Alla left hospital on Monday after recovering from a case of gas poisoning caused by inhaling an unknown kind of "nerve gas" while at school Sunday morning, Balqa Governorate Health Director Dr. Abdul Halim Hiasat said.

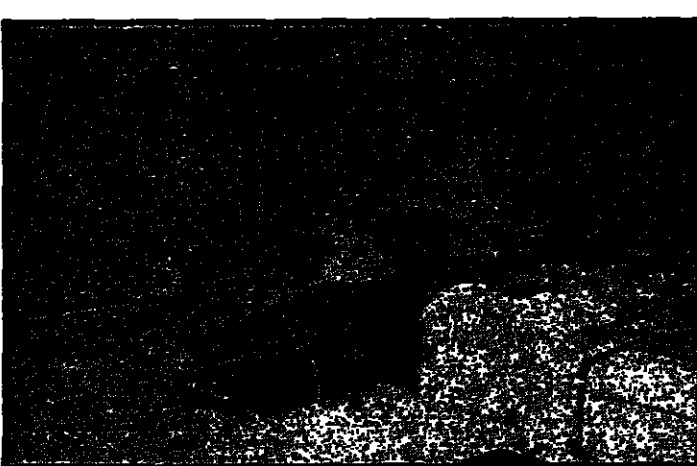
Twelve other students are still under treatment at the Hussein Hospital in Salt "for fear of possible complications," Dr. Hiasat said. "They are all in good condition."

Dr. Hiasat said that four students who were released from Abu Obeidah Hospital Monday were readmitted in the same day and that five other cases were admitted to the Hussein Hospital of which one was released from the Abu Obeidah Hospital in Wadi Al Yahess. He did not explain the reasons behind the procedures but said the students were in good condition.

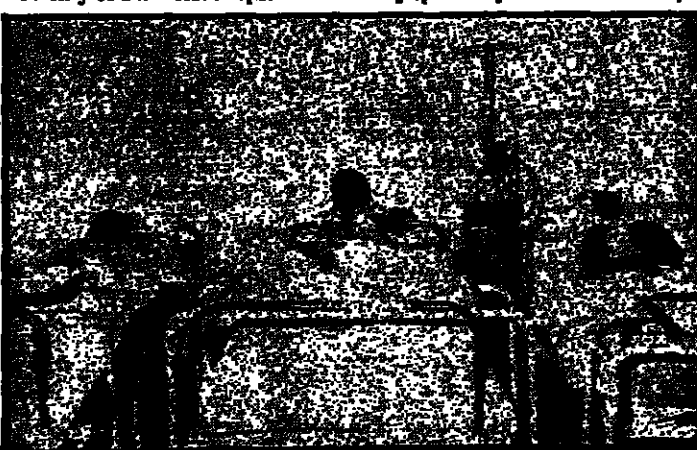
Investigations into the cause of the poisoning were under way, but no results are expected to be released until after the conclusion of all investigations, one Public Security Department official said.

A total of 46 girl students from the Deir Alla town in the Jordan

(Continued on page 2)



Some of the 46 Deir Alla students who were hospitalised on Sunday. Twenty of them left hospital on Monday (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).



OPEC talks end with unanimous accord on defending market share

GENEVA (R) — OPEC ministers on Monday ended their three-day conference with a unanimous decision to defend their share of the world oil market.

But Indonesian Oil Minister Subroto, talking to reporters as a final news conference began, said no figure for the share had yet been decided.

Mr. Subroto said a six-member committee would decide this and also the key question of what action the oil producers should be prepared to take to maintain their sales.

"We're going to defend our market share and our resolutions in the past will still be reaffirmed," he said without further explanation.

This was taken to indicate that the price structure of OPEC (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) and its existing quotas for each member country would be maintained.

Gabon Minister Etienne Guy Mouvanga-Tchioba surprised observers by saying the next

OPEC conference would be its regular half-annual meeting on June 25, and that no emergency conference was planned.

The final conference communique said only five members had in fact been appointed to the new committee — the oil ministers of Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates under the chairmanship of Venezuela.

Venezuelan Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, speaking at a news conference after the meeting, forecast that the market share to be defended would be between the OPEC official ceiling of 16 million barrels per day (bpd) and its actual current output, which market analysts put at more than 18 million bpd.

"I am not intending to declare a price war," Mr. Hernandez Grisanti said.

The communique, which had been held up for more than an hour by unexplained objections to the wording from Iran, spoke of OPEC's concern for market stability.

It noted that the conference "decided to secure and defend for OPEC a fair share of the world oil market consistent with the necessary income or member countries' development."

Nigeria's Tam David-West confirmed that the likely output figure to be defended would be more than 16 million bpd because none of the member states was willing to reduce its production unilaterally.

"I don't think anyone has any intention of cutting," he said.

Mr. Hernandez Grisanti later said the committee would start work immediately to examine the ways and means of achieving the objective of shoring up OPEC's market share.

But having excluded the idea that OPEC intended to start a price war to force its rivals — notably North Sea producers Britain and Norway — to concede a larger slice of oil production, he had no answer when asked what other weapons OPEC possessed.

King: No way for Mideast peace other than international conference

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday stressed the necessity of holding an international peace conference on the Middle East to be attended by all parties concerned. He said he sees no other way to achieve progress other than such a conference.

In an interview with Wall Street Journal published in New York, King Hussein pointed out that the peace process in the Middle East will not get off the ground until the United States agrees to the convening of an international conference to be attended by permanent members of the United Nations and all parties to the conflict, including Syria and the Soviet Union.

The King said Israel has responded positively to the idea of an international umbrella for peace talks in the next few weeks, but he felt frustrated with the U.S. retreat on this issue.

On Jordanian-U.S. relations, the King said Jordan cooperated with the U.S. to secure its defence needs throughout the last 28 years. The King warned of grave consequences that could face these relations if the U.S. Congress rejected the proposed arms deal to Jordan which was postponed until next year.

New mayor of Nablus says his appointment has no political links

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

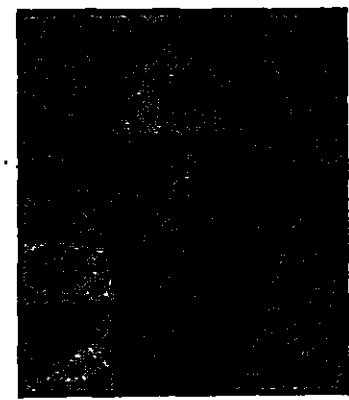
AMMAN — Zafer Al Masri, the newly-appointed mayor of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, said on Monday that the Israeli endorsement of his appointment as mayor had nothing to do with Israel's offer of "self-government" for Palestinians.

"This has nothing to do with self-government," Mr. Masri told the Jordan Times. "We are taking over the municipality (from Israeli officers) to provide better services to the people in accordance with the Jordanian Municipal Law."

Mr. Masri stressed that the Jordanian Municipal Law, which is still in force in the occupied West Bank, "does not provide political authority to municipal councils and mayors."

He said "the moment Israel takes an attempt to attach political authority to municipal councils by amending the (Jordanian) law, we will not be a party to this."

Mr. Masri explained that people in Nablus who are in favour of regaining control over municipalities "are justifying this step as a means to improving the sta-



Zafer Al Masri

ndard of services for Palestinians."

Mr. Masri, who was deputy mayor of Nablus before Israel's suspension of municipal councils in the occupied West Bank in 1980, said the step to appoint him as mayor was not coordinated with Jordan.

He explained that the step was "meant to fall within the general framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee which tolerated a solution short of elections and receives people's backing in the aim of reducing the

suffering of people."

Mr. Masri, who is also president of the Nablus Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber and other institutions in Nablus were pushing for such a take-over of the municipality for the past three-and-a-half years. "This time," he said, "Israel responded positively."

Mr. Masri attributed the Israeli decision to appoint him to the "need to improve the political atmosphere and to make a good gesture to Arab countries." He also said that Egypt and the U.S. have also been urging Israel to improve the living conditions of Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

"We understand that this is the first step in the direction of normalising the status of municipalities that are subject to Israeli take-over," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Dumas offers French help to start Mideast peace talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas began a visit to Israel on Monday and offered France's good offices to help advance Middle East peace, an Israeli official said.

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Avi Pazner told reporters Mr. Dumas made the offer to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir shortly after arriving here for a two-day visit.

Shamir told Mr. Dumas the most "useful" action he could undertake would be to convince Jordan to enter into direct talks with Israel, Pazner said.

Mr. Dumas, seeking to clarify Israel's terms for taking part in Middle East peace talks, spent two hours discussing the Middle East with Shamir and his aides before meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

He was told Israel opposed a full-fledged Middle East conference, Pazner said. Israel was prepared, however, for a form of "international forum" where Arabs and Israelis could meet directly.

Mr. Dumas told reporters that France was not altering its support for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) participation in an international forum for peace talks.

"Our position on the Middle East remains the same," Mr. Dumas said on Israeli Radio.

One of Israel's conditions was to attend peace talks that only states could participate, meaning the exclusion of the PLO, Pazner said.

Another condition would be that Israel would speak only to nations with whom it had diplomatic ties, he said. This would exclude the Soviet Union, which broke ties with Israel in 1967.

One Israeli official said he presumed that during Monday's talks the Israeli leaders asked France to use its connections with Syria to defuse tensions which have mounted since Israel shot down two Syrian jet fighters Nov. 19.

Yediot Ahronot newspaper reported that diplomatic efforts through the United States failed to ease Syrian nervousness over continued Israeli reconnaissance flights over Lebanon.

Occupation forces expel 2 W.Bank Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities expelled two more Palestinians from the occupied West Bank to the East Bank on Monday.

Mahmoud Abdul Hafez Dehish, 44, and Yunis Salem Al Rjuh, 29, were expelled in line with army expulsion orders issued last week.

Palestinian sources told Reuters the two did not appeal to a military commission or the supreme court because appeals would give the army orders a semblance of "legality."

The two were accused of organising anti-occupation resistance groups in the occupied territories.

Mr. Rjuh was one of 1,150 Palestinians freed by Israel in May in a prisoner exchange for three Israeli soldiers captured in Lebanon.

(Continued on page 2)

Karami sets deadline for end to militia rule Doctors protest kidnappings

BEIRUT (AP) — Police searched Monday for two abducted prominent Christians, one a physician at the kidnap-plagued American University of Beirut's Hospital, and 150 hospital doctors demonstrated to protest the seizures in Beirut's Western sector.

It was the first protest march by physicians in the war-torn Lebanese capital that has for months been rocked by abductions, bank holdups, car bombings and gunpoint car thefts.

Amid mounting public protests against the militias, Prime Minister Rashid Karami said a special army and police task force will be deployed in west Beirut at 5 a.m. on Wednesday to take over security and end the feuding militias' 19-month reign.

The premier made the announcement to reporters after a two-hour meeting with senior army and police commanders as well as members of a coordination committee supervising a ceasefire between Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shi'ite Amal militias.

The committee, which operates under the guidance of 36 Syrian army observers, will meet every

Monday to review the new security plan to reestablish law and order in west Beirut, Mr. Karami said.

He refused to disclose the size of the new task force. But Beirut Radio said it would be made up of 450 troops and policemen equipped with the armour for rapid deployment.

Mr. Karami's meeting with army and police commanders was delayed for 45 minutes because of the doctors' demonstration.

Wearing their white medical coats, the doctors marched from the AUH compound in the Ras Beirut neighbourhood to Mr. Karami's office five blocks away in the Hamra commercial district.

They gathered outside Mr. Karami's office and denounced Sunday's abduction of Dr. Munir Shama'a, 58, and businessman Joseph Salameh.

"We are frustrated and angry," Dr. Naif Rassif told reporters. "We are medical men and have an obligation to our profession and the people."

Dr. Najib Abu Haider said: "This is part of an uncivilised attack against west Beirut... the university serves all Lebanon."

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Pirzadeh: OIC to pursue Iran-Iraq mediation

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A reconciliation committee affiliated to the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and entrusted with mediating the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war has received fresh responses from both warring countries. OIC Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh said Monday.

Speaking at a press conference shortly before leaving for Cairo winding up a four-day visit to Jordan, Mr. Pirzadeh said Gambian President Dawda Jawara, chairman of the Islamic Goodwill Committee, had made contacts with both Iran and Iraq following the committee's last gathering in Jeddah in December.

"A meeting is due next week in Jeddah to pursue efforts in light of the recent development," said Mr. Pirzadeh without going into details.

The forthcoming meeting will also review recent visits made by the committee to the warring states, he said.

The committee, set up in 1981 by the 45-member Jeddah based OIC, comprises the leaders of Bangladesh, Guinea, Turkey, Pakistan, Senegal, Malaysia and Gambia in addition to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mr. Pirzadeh.

(Arab diplomats in Riyadh were quoted as saying by the Associated Press on Sunday that Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz proposed an undisclosed peace proposal to end the Gulf war to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, currently visiting Saudi Arabia).

Mr. Pirzadeh, describing his visit to Jordan as fruitful, said he discussed with His Majesty King Hussein and senior officials issues of mutual interest and ways of promoting OIC-Jordan cooperation.

The Iran-Iraq war, the Afghanistan problem, the drought in the Sahel region of Africa, the status of Jerusalem and means to bolster integrity and cooperation among Arab and Islamic countries were the focus of his talks in Jordan, the OIC secretary general told the press conference.

On Monday, Mr. Pirzadeh met Lower House Speaker Akel A. Fayed who briefed him on Jordan's efforts to end the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Jerusalem.

Mr. Fayed, voicing concern over the situation in the Arab and Islamic worlds, said Jordan has always supported reconciliation on both Arab and Islamic level, and solidarity among Islamic and Arab countries.

In another meeting Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an briefed the OIC secretary general on Jordan's efforts to preserve Arab identity in Jerusalem and the Holy City's Islamic and archaeological heritage.

Outlining financial help extended to the Holy City, the minister said that about 25 per cent of the overall allocations to support the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the occupied territories is earmarked for Jerusalem.

Mr. Pirzadeh also met with Mr. Akram Zaiter, president of the Royal Committee for Jerusalem for a briefing on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Pirzadeh in Cairo

Reuter reported Mr. Pirzadeh's arrival in Cairo later Monday. He met Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid for 30 minutes. There was no immediate word on what they discussed.

They are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday, when Mr. Pirzadeh is also due to see Sheikh Gadul Haq Ali Gadul Haq, imam of Al Azhar, one of the world's oldest seats of Islamic learning.

President Hosni Mubarak will receive him on Wednesday, Reuter said.

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Kyprianou fails to overcome opposition in Cyprus polls

NICOSIA, Cyprus (Agencies) — With more than three-quarters of the votes counted Monday, President Spyros Kyprianou's minority centrist Diko Party gained in strength but not sufficiently to overcome opposition to his hardline policy on a Cyprus peace settlement.

The results splitting the vote four ways, gave the combined opposition of the right-wing Rally and the Communist Akel parties a combined majority of 61 per cent.

Akel and the Rally had called for an early election to force Mr. Kyprianou to moderate his strategy in the peace talks with Turkish Cypriots on this war divided island. The two threatened to change the constitution to force him to resign if he failed to do so.

Official results showed that with 271,178 votes counted out of a total of about 330,000, Rally was first with 90,173 votes, or 34.01 per cent. It was followed by Diko

with 72,387, or 27.30 per cent. Akel with 71,801, or 27.08 per cent and the Socialist Edek with 29,879, or 11.27 per cent.

Scattered other returns announced by the government television but not calculated along with the count from officials showed the same trend, with the president's party appearing to gain votes at the expense of the Communist Party.

The trend ran counter to the only reliable opinion poll during the campaign, which showed Akel running slightly behind the Rally party with Diko in third place.

Election officials reported ear-

lier that 95 per cent of the 346,000 eligible voters cast ballots before polls closed at 6 p.m. The voting had begun at 6:30 a.m.

Leaders of the Rally and Akel parties want Mr. Kyprianou to follow parliament's more moderate direction in negotiations with Turkish Cypriots or resign the presidency.

They had forced an early election after complaining that Mr. Kyprianou was wrong in failing to sign a United Nations-sponsored agreement intended to lead to reuniting Cyprus as a federated state.

Rally and Akel hoped to gain a two-thirds majority in the new parliament which they required to force Mr. Kyprianou to call early presidential elections before his term ends in 1988.

Akel and Rally shared 23 seats in the old 35-member house. The Democratic Party had nine, and the Socialist Edek three.

Turkish Cypriots withdrew from the government in 1963 after bloody communal fighting. A further 24 house seats reserved for them will remain vacant, as did 15 in the old parliament.

In 1974 Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island following an abortive coup by supporters of the military junta then ruling Greece. Ankara alone recognises the breakaway "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus."

Akel and Rally argued that Kyprianou had failed to reach "an honourable compromise" with the Turkish Cypriots to re-unite Cyprus.

But Mr. Kyprianou said no Greek Cypriot could accept the presence of 18,000 Turkish troops in Cyprus nor a legalised separation of the two communities, issues which Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş says are not open to negotiation.

Aden reports U.S. jets intercepting civilian aircraft

KUWAIT (AP) — South Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali was quoted Monday as saying that U.S. warplanes have intercepted Aden's civilian aircraft, insisting that his country "will not bow to threats and blackmail from the United States and Israel."

Mr. Dali, who held cooperation talks with Kuwait's leadership over the weekend, told the newspaper Al Watan: "A month ago, the American warplanes flew from units of the U.S. fleet which are stationed off our coast and intercepted our civilian planes near Bab Al Mandab and provoked them."

South Yemen has a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union, which maintains a sizeable military presence in that southern Arabian Red Sea country.

The minister said that American fleet units present in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean represented "a threat to all the littoral states."

Mr. Dali charged that the U.S. units "provoked our national regime." He also charged Israel of threatening South Yemen and said "the Israeli and American danger to Yemen's maritime routes emanates from their joint strategic pact."

"The U.S. threat is still continuing, but we cannot bow to American threats and blackmail which aim at influencing our foreign and domestic policies," he said.

Arab diplomats said that Israel has charged South Yemen, which overlooks the exit of the Red Sea at the Bab Al Mandab Straits, of harassing its ships. Israel also is ready to attack all Palestinian bases in Arab countries in action similar to the Oct. 1 raid on the Palestine Liberation Organisation headquarters in Tunis, they said.

Some 2,000 Palestinian commandos live in South Yemen since their exodus from Lebanon.

Iraq on alert for Iranian offensive

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi troops are on alert for an Iranian cross-border offensive which diplomats here say is imminent in marshland on the south-central Gulf war front.

Iraq says its warplanes have flown more than 400 combat missions since Friday against Iranian positions in the Hawziah Marsh area, which has witnessed some of Iran's most costly "human wave" attacks in the five-year conflict.

"The fact that Iraqi warplanes have started bombing Iranian troop concentrations in the area is a clear sign that an offensive is imminent," a Western diplomat in Baghdad said.

Diplomats say large numbers of well-equipped Iraqi troops have been sent to southern Iraq, which contains the main body of the marshes that straddle the border.

Defence Minister Gen. Adnan Kheirullah has said Iran is preparing a massive offensive and Iraqi troops are on alert along the whole 1,180 kilometres border.

President Saddam Hussein last week warned Iran against a new offensive, saying: "A catastrophe will befall the Iranian regime if it wants to commit foolishness against Iraq."

The diplomats saw Mr. Hussein's remarks as warning Tehran that Iraq, which has air superiority, would intensify plane and missile strikes on vital Iranian economic installations.

Iraq says its planes have launched 48 raids since mid-August against Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf. It has also reported strikes on offshore oilfields, industrial plants and other "economic and strategic" targets.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Iraq has about 580 combat planes, including French and Soviet fighters, and some 150 armed helicopters.

It says this compares with an estimated 95 or so serviceable combat planes in Iran, largely U.S.-designed aircraft delivered before its 1979 Islamic Revolution. Iran, however, has a 3-1 population advantage.

A total of 160 of the Iraqi combat missions flown since Friday were carried out Sunday, according to a Baghdad war communique, which said one Iraqi plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire near the Majnoon Islands.

The last major Gulf war offensive reported by either side in the southern sector was by Iran in the marshland area last spring.

Iraq said it repelled that attack, killing or wounding thousands of Iranians.

20 Deir Alla students leave hospital

(Continued from page 1)

Valley were hospitalised in Salt and Wadi Al Yabess on Sunday. A team of experts from the Ministry of Health and from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and Public Security and Civil Defence officials in Balqa Governorate visited the scene of the accident in Deir Alla for investigation purposes.

Preliminary reports indicated that it was a result of mishandling chemical material which is used in agriculture.

According to an account of the incident by the school headmaster, a stench of smoke permeated the school at approximately 9:30 a.m. Sunday. The headmaster said that he made sure there was no fire, but "my eyes became watery, my face red, pain in the throat and I went to wash my face."

She was surprised to find that all students and teachers were outside the classrooms as a result of the strong smell which also caused respiration difficult in some cases. When several students fainted, the headmaster called the Civil Defence Department which rushed to scene.

The news of the accident spread fast, and several citizens in the area rushed to assist ambulances in transporting the affected to hospital.

Thirty-four students were rushed to the Al-Hi Obeid Hospital, 30 kilometres from the school, and 12 students were carried to the Salt Hospital.

Balqa Governor Mijheim Khreishah, the director general of the Education Department of Balqa and other officials held a meeting at the school to get first-hand information about the accident.

Casualties as a result of the "nerve gas" were limited to those present at the school premises. None of the residents of the Dabadeeb neighbourhood, only few dozen metres away, were hurt. Also, a boys' school, about 150 metres away, was not affected by the gas.

Winds on Sunday morning were south-easterly and strong. The school is built on a hill, higher than the nearby housing complex. The effect of the gas in the school was stronger on the second rather than the first floor.

There is a water purification

plant belonging to the Jordan Valley Authority about five kilometres from the school. Investigations are covering all installations in the school area.

A team of medics from the criminal lab and the RSS took blood samples from the injured students to ascertain the cause of the poisoning. The result of these tests are expected within 24 hours.

According to RSS experts, it is technically difficult to test gases in Jordan.

Another team of experts were studying the possibility that certain kinds of insecticide may have caused the accident. Some doctors said it may have been caused by phosphoric gas, ammonia or chlorine.

Nablus mayor explains situation

(Continued from page 1)

He quoted Mr. Murphy as saying that "this time, we have better possibilities for peaceful negotiations than anytime in the past."

Mr. Masri quoted the U.S. special envoy as saying that "most parties concerned have agreed to having an international umbrella for a Middle East peace conference."

In reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Mr. Masri quoted Mr. Murphy as saying: "We are hopeful that the PLO will take a decision to accept (U.N. Resolutions) 242 and 338 which would open the door for the PLO to join peace negotiations."

In reply to a question, Mr. Masri said: "In the absence of any other workable process or the ability to force a solution on the Israelis, I don't see why we shouldn't accept 242 and 338, with whatever conditions necessary."

Mr. Masri said the main priority for people in the West Bank was "to get freedom and the termination of Israeli occupation."

Responding to a question on the issue of Palestinian representation in peace talks, Mr. Masri said: "We consider ourselves as part of the Palestinian people represented by the legitimate leadership of the PLO. And the majority favours the joint Jordanian-Palestinian approach to solve our problem."

Mr. Masri welcomed the rapprochement between Jordan and Syria and described the two countries' closer relations as a very positive contribution to the peace process.

Mr. Masri is a graduate of the American University of Beirut.

8 Israelis killed in fire

(Continued from page 1)

As the unit headed toward Nahariya with the captured car and its occupants, it ran into a shootout with an Israeli military checkpoint. Two hostages were killed by enemy fire, the communique said.

It said three DFLP men were wounded and captured. But it said the "rest of the unit returned safely to base, despite an Israeli army cordon and a search by helicopters."

The Palestinian operation came six days after 250 Israeli troops with tanks and gunships ventured out of Israel's self-styled "security belt" in South Lebanon to attack a Palestinian base.

Lebanese police said 14 people, including five commandos and two Israelis, were killed in the attack on the base used by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

After the clash on Sunday despite an Israeli dragnet backed with helicopters.

The communique came a day after the Israeli army said Israeli troops captured a Palestinian commando cell trying to "infiltrate" from South Lebanon to attack a settlement.

The Israeli command said the men were captured in the Israeli-occupied "security belt" in South Lebanon set up last June.

But the DFLP said its men belonged to the Carlos Abu Hawash unit, which "operates behind enemy lines within occupied territory."

The communique said the commandos seized an "enemy car" with an undetermined number of occupants on the Maalot-Nahariya highway.

Egyptair crew reportedly prevented panic

KIRKLAND, Washington (AP) — A survivor of last month's Egyptian airliner hijacking said stewardesses averted passenger hysteria aboard the plane because they did not panic after they were shot.

Patrick Scott Baker, 28, who faked death after being shot, recalled the Nov. 23 hijacking in an interview at his brother's home in this Seattle suburb published Sunday by the Vancouver Columbian newspaper.

Mr. Baker, who was shot in the head and feigned death in the incident, was released from a Maltese hospital last month and flew home to Seattle.

"I noticed that two stewardesses had been shot. They were bleeding a little bit, but they were bearing their pain," he said. "I think that may be why no one panicked."

Baker said he was reading when he noticed a well-dressed man standing in the aisle, holding a gun and a grenade.

Two armed men then gathered the flight crew and began collecting passengers' passports, he said.

"Terrorist I was treating some people roughly and some people gently," Mr. Baker said. "There were two Israeli girls that I'd gotten to know at the Athens Airport, and he treated them rather roughly. With a French girl, he tweaked her cheek and said, 'welcome.'"

"Me, he asked where I was from in America, and I said, 'Seattle, Washington,' he said, 'ah, welcome.'"

Shots rang out, and Baker saw an Egyptian security guard lying in the aisle.

Once the plane landed in Malta, a medic came aboard and examined the first hijacker, who had been shot to death by the security guard.

"When terrorist 2 found out terrorist 1 was dead, he put another shot into the Egyptian security guard, but as it turns out the

guy lived anyway," Baker said.

After the medic left, the hijackers released some women and then asked for one of the Israeli women, Mr. Baker said.

"They had been hiding all this time under the seats, but they didn't stand much of a chance," Mr. Baker said. "That was the hardest part for me. Any fear that I had turned to anger."

He said he held the hand of the other Israeli woman before she, too, was led away.

"Then they asked for the Americans. I knew what was coming," he said.

"Terrorist 2 told me to go outside," Baker continued. "He looked me right in the eyes. 'I'll never forget those eyes. I could identify him in court just by those eyes. As soon as I reached the top of the stairs, he shot.'"

"In a split second, I knew I was still alive and sort of fell down about five stairs. I was elated and just played as dead as possible."

Israel denies releasing Lebanese commando

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has denied that it had freed a Lebanese, Christian fighter captured in South Lebanon as part of a deal with Shi'ite Muslim commandos.

Shi'ite militia leader Nabih Berri said in Beirut that Israel had released Tony Abu Ghanem, a 20-year-old Christian who fought alongside Shi'ites against Israeli forces in South Lebanon.

A military spokesman said Israel had released all the Lebanese prisoners it held last September when it emptied its Adit Prison in northern Israel.

Referring to the Beirut report that Abu Ghanem was freed three days ago and welcomed by Mr. Berri, she said: "We have not released anyone. We've never heard this name before."

Israeli hospitals lack funds

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's government has approved an extra \$10 million for health care as hospitals, unable to pay their bills, said they were running out of food, fuel and medicines.

A cabinet spokesman said the extra money was for the health fund of the Histadrut Labour Federation to help pay its debts to government and Histadrut-owned hospitals.

The cabinet discussed a request by Health Minister Mordechai Gur for a further \$24 million to pay all the hospitals' overdue bills, but no decision was reached, the spokesman said.

Human rights case against Turkey settled

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — Five West European countries which brought Turkey before the European court of human rights have agreed to drop the case following Ankara's promise to speed up the country's return to democracy, the European Commission of Human Rights announced Monday.

The settlement ends more than three years of litigation on charges of torture of political prisoners and other violations of the European convention of human rights.

Observers here said it appeared to mark a substantial victory for the government of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal which has made repeated efforts to bring the litigation to an end.

The five countries, France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, agreed to the settlement when they were assured that the Turkish authorities would redouble their efforts to stop the torture of inmates in prisons and police stations, and lift martial law throughout the country within 18 months, the commission said.

The Turkish government agreed that the State Supervisory Council, a body set up to investigate the allegations of torture, "will be instructed to have special regard to the strict observance by all public authorities," including the military, of the convention's provision prohibiting the ill-treatment of prisoners, it said.

The government agreed to submit progress reports every three months, starting next February, and to allow members of the European human rights body to conduct on-site investigations.

In announcing the settlement, the commission said the five governments have given "special regard" to Mr. Ozal's promise, made last April in Washington, "to lift

martial law throughout (Turkey) within 18 months."

Ankara has also promised to speed up legislation to grant amnesty to all political prisoners and to inform the commission of progress.

The decision to end the case comes after a score of meetings among the representatives of the five governments and Turkey, held behind closed doors.

S. Arabia denies report of U.S. base

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has denied Egyptian press reports that it has an American military base on its territory. Riyadh Radio reported. Riyadh Radio quoted an official source as saying the reports "were mere fabrications and totally baseless." A similar denial was made in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel. 73111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:50 Koran
17:55 Cartoons
17:45 Children Programme
18:10 The Eleventh Hour
18:40 Just Our Luck
19:00 Programme on Safety for Children

19:30 News programme
19:45 Tomorrow's programmes
20:00 News in Arabic
20:40 Arabic Series
21:35 Tomorrow's Programmes and varieties
21:50 Road to Jerusalem (Arabic Series)

23:00 News in Arabic
23:10 Series Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:50 autour du monde en 80 jours
18:30 des chiffres de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Coupe de soleil
19:20 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 That's My Boy
21:10 The Secret of the Black Dragon
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: Why Me? - Cyril
mils O'Connor. Armand Assante

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW
77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Pop Session Cont.
10:30 News Summary
11:00 Pop Session Cont.
11:30 News Summary
12:00 Country Music
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Pop Session Cont.
13:30 News Summary
14:00 News Bulletin
14:30 Country Music
15:00 News Summary
15:30 News Summary
16:00 Old Favorites
16:30 Science Report
17:00 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:30 Top Twenty
19:00 Newswatch

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Contemporary Egyptian art at Jordan National Museum (until Dec. 10)

* An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Dia Al Azawi at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 10)

* An exhibition on the French television system "Antiope" at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 14)

* Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University's Islamic Centre (until Dec. 11)

* Soviet art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Dec. 13)

* The second ceramics exhibition by Margaret Todor at the Alia Art Gallery (until Dec. 17)

* Islamic book exhibition at the University of Jordan's Islamic Cultural Centre.

PLAY

* "All Baba et les 40 voleurs" daily at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 12)

FESTIVAL

* "Mariannettes on Feet" daily at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 12)

FILM

* The ABC News - The McLaughlin Group at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

LECTURE

* Dr. Zeidan Kafadi from the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University will deliver a lecture on "Abu Thawwab - A Pottery Neolithic Village in Jordan" at 7:00 p.m. today at the Goethe Institute.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

JUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia International Airport tel. (08) 5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

08:45 Agaba (RJ)
09:35 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
09:35 Kuwait (RJ)
09:45 Jordan (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
09:55 Dharan (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:20 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
10:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:45 Dharan, Riyadh (SV)
13:45 Kuwait (RJ)
15:40 Moscow (SU)
16:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)
16:30 Larnaca (RJ)
17:15 Baghdad (AJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:55 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
17:55 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KJ)
18:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Tripoli (RJ)
19:35 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
21:15 Zurich, Larnaca (BR)
22:30 Baghdad (AJ)
01:30 Cairo (RJ)

DEPARTURES:

06:30 Agaba (RJ)
08:00 Beirut (MEA)
10:20 Cairo (MS)
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)
11:20 Cairo (RJ)
11:30 Athens (RJ)
12:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30 Riyadh, Dharan (SV)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:55 Istanbul, Budapest (RJ)
13:00 Larnaca (RJ)
13:40 Kuwait (RJ)
16:00 Moscow (SU)
17:30 Baghdad (AJ)
19:30 Beirut (MEA)
19:40 Dharan (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:50 Baghdad (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)
23:30 Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates

Local selling rates in Jds

Bahraini dinar 977 983
Dutch guilder 129/1 130/6
Egyptian piastre 203/ 210
French franc 47/7 48/1
Iraqi dinar 335/ 343
Japanese yen (for 100) 181/2 182/6
Kuwaiti dinar 127/4 128/1
Libanese lra 20/ 23
Omani rial 1067/ 1073
Qatari rial 101/ 103
Saudi rial 101/ 103
Swedish crown 48/ 48.4
Swiss franc 174.8/ 176.2
Syrian lra 26/ 29
UAE dirham 100/ 102
U.K. sterling pound 542.4/ 546.7
U.S. dollar 369/ 372.1
W. German mark 145.8/ 147

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891228
Amman civil defence 198 199
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 271331
Civil Defence Jweineh 770733
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630345
Blood bank 778303
Civil Defence rescue 661111
Fire headquarters 629090
Police rescue 192, 62111, 62777
Police headquarters 639141
Traffic police 896390/1
Electric Power Co. 6368114, 624881
Municipal water company 771124/28
Jesse Alia Int. Airport (08) 53306-5

TAXIS:

Taxi taxi 644660
Taxi taxi 666417
Dwell taxi 668154
Abdul Hameed taxi 844978
Raghad taxi 842400
Abli taxi 842474

ERBID:

Dr. Shabbat Al Zagh 240400
Hazm pharmacy 274973
Jerusalem pharmacy 243443

ZAR JA:

Dr. Akram Haddad 985550

GENERAL

Jordan Television 773111/19
Radio Jordan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666412
Police complaints 661176
Telephone Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

(Fixed prices for imported produce)

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg

Apple 280/220
Banana 140/100
Chestnut 700/600
Coconut (each) 500/450
Garlic (with leaves) 320/280
Garlic (without leaves) 480/400
Onion (dry) 180/140
Potatoes 200/160
Sage (green) 350/300

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan condoles Al Hadid family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday paid a visit to Al Hadid family and offered his condolences to them on the death of Sheikh Mithaq Shaher Al Hadid, member of the Upper House of Parliament. The late Sheikh Mithaq passed away Saturday at the age of 65.

Commerce chambers cable Rifai

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has received cables of thanks from the chairmen and members of the Amman and Aqaba Chambers of Commerce. The Amman Chamber of Commerce welcomed the government's decision to cancel price lists for locally-produced agricultural products as it is designed to protect producers and to encourage this important sector, the cable said. The Aqaba Chamber of Commerce expressed their gratitude to the government for its efforts to meet the demands of Aqaba and for contributing to the city's development.

Lawzi, Soviet envoy discuss summit

AMMAN (Petra) — Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinichuk Monday briefed Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on the outcome of the superpower summit meeting in Geneva last month. They also reviewed cooperation in parliamentary affairs between Jordan and the Soviet Union. Mr. Lawzi spoke of Jordan's stand regarding the establishment of peace in the Middle East and said that Jordan seeks to convene an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli issue, based on the principles of granting the Palestinian people their right to self-determination.

EIB team to tour development projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team from the European Investment Bank (EIB) is currently visiting Jordan for talks with government officials on financing a number of Jordanian development projects. The team, which includes Dr. Roger Adams and Mr. R. Wilson, will tour a number of projects being financed with help from the EIB. The team arrived in Amman Sunday night and were met by a number of Jordanian officials and delegate of the European Community in Jordan, Mr. Romano Lantini.

Authority reviews promotion of tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Tourism Authority Nasri Atallah Monday met with British Ambassador John Coles and representatives of British Airways to discuss promoting tourism. A number of representatives of British tourist offices and British Airways are currently in Amman on a tour of archaeological sites and to discuss cooperation in tourism-related matters.

UNESCO holds talks on regional centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Education Ahmad Al Bashairah Monday conferred with a delegation from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). During the meeting the two sides reviewed the activities and future plans of the Amman-based UNESCO's regional centre for the training of educational personnel.

Official to attend U.N. talks on women

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development's technical undersecretary, Mr. Mohammad Al Sogor, left for Vienna to take part in a seminar on women and shelter, organised by the United Nations Centre for Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development. During the two-week seminar, which started in the Austrian capital on Monday, the achievements of the international women's decade will be evaluated and future policies and strategies until the year 2000 will be drawn up.

Five-year old boy drowns in East Ghor Canal

IRBID (J.T.) — A five-year old boy has been found drowned in the bottom of the East Ghor Canal at Tal Arba' in region in the Jordan Valley. It took four days of searching by civil defence teams in Irbid and the North Jordan Valley areas to find the boy who had been stuck in the silt of the canal, a report in 'Al Dustour' Arabic daily newspaper said Monday.

The report said that civil defence men used rubber dinghies to search the canal and were helped in their rescue operation by local inhabitants and divers. The search for the boy was hampered by the presence of barbed wire, old tyres and other rubbish which had been dumped in the canal, the report said.

According to the newspaper, an decision had been taken to seal off the whole length of the canal and to prevent swimmers and bathers from using it for recreation but the decision was not been put into effect and several tragic accidents had occurred as a result.

Foreign Ministry official briefs Swedish team

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry Tayseer Tougan Monday received a visiting delegation from the ruling Democratic Socialist party in Sweden and briefed them on the developments of the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Tougan also briefed the delegation on the Jordanian stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question. He also outlined Jordan's efforts to find a just and durable peace in the Middle East through the implementation of United Nations resolutions. He also outlined Jordan's efforts to hold an international peace conference, to be attended by the five permanent member states of the United Nations Security Council and all parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Also Monday, the Swedish delegation paid a visit to Baqa'a camp where they were briefed on the services provided to refugees by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The delegation visited schools, a feeding centre and health centre which are run by UNRWA.

Czech university delegation visits Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University President Adnan Badran Monday conferred with a visiting delegation from Czechoslovak universities and affirmed the university's interest in promoting cooperation between Yarmouk University and Czech universities in scientific, technical, medical and agricultural fields.

A draft agreement will be organised during the visit for cooperation in academic and scientific fields between the university and three Czech universities. The agreement will also cover the exchange of professors, researchers and visits by students and administrative staff.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Jozef Hulla, who is head of the delegation and vice-president of the Technical University in Bratislava, said that scientific programmes for future cooperation have been drawn up between the two universities in the fields of exchange of technology, information, environmental studies, electrical engineering, biological technology and nutrition.

Vice president of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Professor Gustav Catar also spoke about cooperation between the two universities and said that they will work towards cooperation in scientific research, soil science, social, agricultural and medical fields. The Vice President of the University of Agriculture in Nitra Professor Maria Kodestikova said that the two universities will exchange members of staff as well as books on agricultural subjects. She also invited Yarmouk University to take part in scientific research being conducted at Nitra University.

Association draws up rules for graduate engineers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineering Association's board has approved rules and principles governing the registration of community college graduates, who hold the first engineering grade, whether they joined the university before or after the academic year 1985/1986.

According to the new rules, a graduate will be recognised as an engineer once he obtains his first university degree in engineering after four years of study as a full-time student or after the successful completion of 125 credit hours a semester, provided that engineering, basic subjects, mathematics, physics and chemistry amount to not less than 105 credit hours a semester.

Under the new rules, the graduate shall be recognised as an applied engineer if he holds the first grade in applied engineering after regular study at an institute or university. This must be equivalent to three years or 100 credit hours per semester providing that engineering studies, basic subjects, mathematics, physics and chemistry are not less than 90 credit hours a semester or the equivalent.

If the student enrolls in a programme at a university or institute leading to the first university degree, a diploma or masters in engineering or applied engineering then it will be equated in due course.

The rules also state that a student should have passed the General Secondary Certificate literary stream before enrolling in any post-secondary education programme leading to an academic degree. The student should also have passed the community college comprehensive examination set for community college students.

The rules also provide for the admission of students who enrolled in engineering courses leading to a degree prior to 1985, provided that they are in possession of a first university degree in engineering after three-years of study as a full-time student at a university or institute or that they have successfully completed 100 credit hours a semester, provided that they have at least 85 credit hours a semester in engineering, basic subjects, mathematics, physics and chemistry.

The new rules have been referred to Minister of Public Works Mahmoud Al Hawamdeh for approval.

Khayyat returns from meetings on slaughter of animals

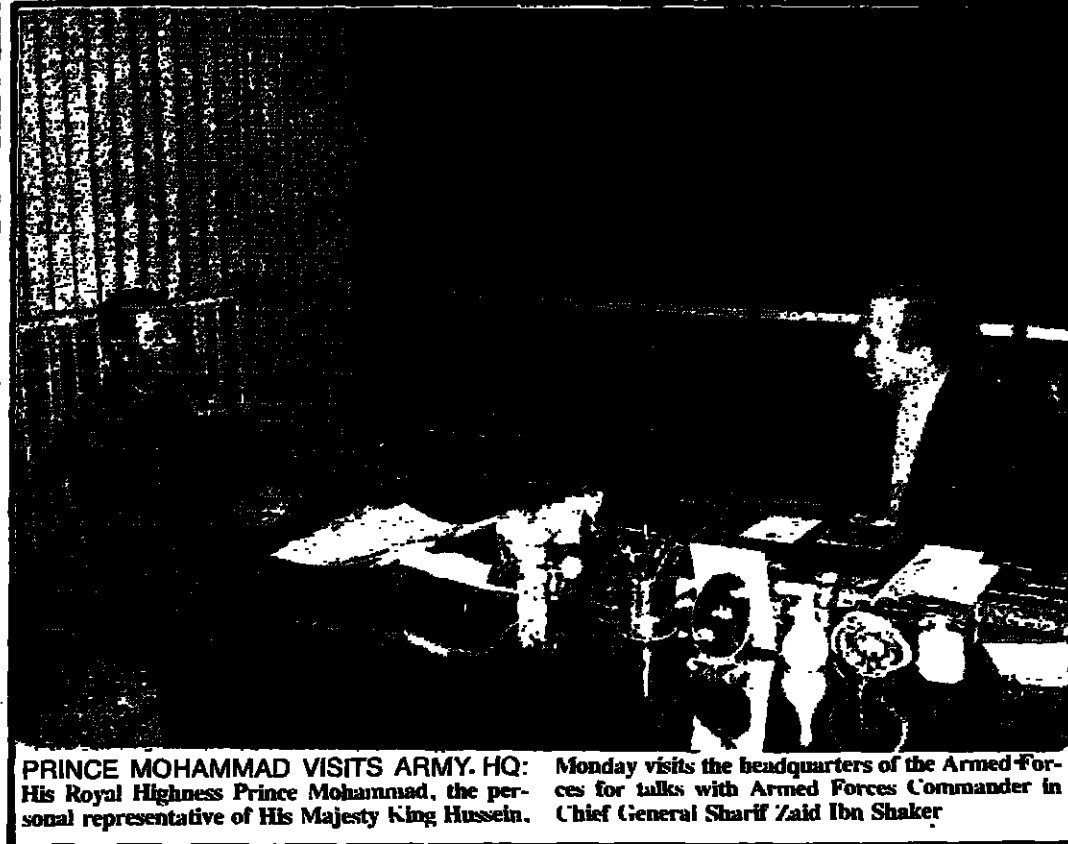
AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Aqwaq and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Sunday returned to Amman from Saudi Arabia where he took part in a seminar on the slaughtering of animals in non-Muslim countries and a conference on human rights in Islam.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Dr. Khayyat said the seminar stressed the necessity of adherence of the Islamic method of slaughtering animals with a sharp knife as he said it is quicker and does not expose the animal to torture before slaughter. The seminar recommended that slaughtering animals using electric shocks should be banned as it implies torture to the animal, Dr. Khayyat added.

The minister added that participants discussed a paper, prepared by himself in cooperation with an expert from the World Health Organisation (WHO), on the animals whose meat can be eaten according to Islamic law and the Islamic way of slaughtering animals.

Taking part in the seminar were a number of international experts on meat and the slaughtering of animals, owners of large food industries, representatives of WHO and the Food and Agriculture Organisation and a number of Islamic scholars.

The meeting was attended by Yarmouk University Vice President Marwan Kamal, the Czechoslovak Charge d'Affaires in Amman Emil Husecky and a number of university deans. The delegation arrived here Wednesday and is expected to sign an agreement for cooperation between Yarmouk University and Czech universities.



PRINCE MOHAMMAD VISITS ARMY HQ: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday visits the headquarters of the Armed Forces for talks with Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Jerusalem electricity firm in financial straits, seeks JD 2.5m loan to maintain services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) is facing financial difficulties and hopes that the Jordanian government and other Arab countries will come to its aid in order that it can maintain its services to the Arab inhabitants of the occupied West Bank, according to the chairman of JDEC's board of directors, Mr. Anwar Nuseibeh.

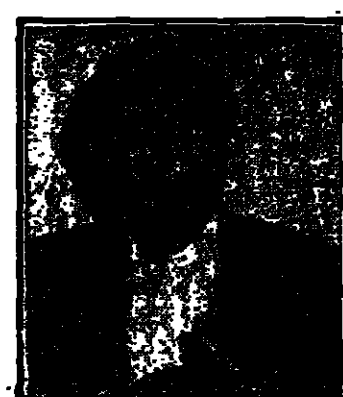
No direct support

The JDEC does not receive direct financial support from any source and the total amount of financial assistance received from the Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule was only sufficient for extending supplies to 120 Arab villages, Mr. Nuseibeh added.

Mr. Nuseibeh, who is currently on a visit to the East Bank of Jordan to discuss the situation, said he had met with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Taher Kana'an and both have been sympathetic and promised help, according to an interview Mr. Nuseibeh gave to the local press. "In my talks with the prime minister and Mr. Kana'an, I explained the Israeli measures designed to impede the work of JDEC and to force Arab inhabitants to abandon their homeland, and they displayed a positive response and understanding of the situation, Mr. Nuseibeh was quoted as saying.

He said that the company needs a JD 2.5 million loan to enable it to withstand Israeli pressure, and to cover its current deficit, which is largely due to the high fees the company is forced to pay for the purchase of additional electric energy supplies for the Arab territory from the Israeli electricity company.

Mr. Nuseibeh suggested that a loan be obtained from Arab funds with guarantees from the Jordanian government and the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee. Otherwise, he continued, the JDEC will have to resort to obtaining the loan from Israeli banks at very high interest. JDEC does not aim at making any profits, but only to pay its expenses and to offer electricity services to the local Arab population, Mr. Nuseibeh added.



Anwar Nuseibeh

Threat of liquidation

He warned that the Israelis intend to liquidate the JDEC if it fails to honour its commitments and once the company is liquidated, the value of its assets, estimated at JD 24 million, will be sufficient to pay compensation to its staff and to also pay off all outstanding debts. The JDEC has a concession to operate until Jan. 1, 1988 and Israel, as an occupation power, has no right whatsoever to end the concession, he continued. "Our battle with the Israelis is to maintain the concession and to offer electric power at a reduced cost if possible," Mr. Nuseibeh pointed out.

He said that JDEC buys 30 per cent of its total energy from the Israeli company in order to maintain supplies to Arab areas within the company's concession.

Still time for heavy rain, Abanda says

AMMAN (Petra) — Over the past 60 years Jordan has witnessed 16 seasons similar to the one currently affecting the country as the amount of rainfall to date is small, Dr. Ali Abanda, director general of the Meteorology Department, said on Monday.

In seven seasons out of the sixteen the amount of rainfall until this time of the season was very small but the season improved and heavy rainfall was registered, he added.

However, he said, one can not say that it is too late for rain, because we have witnessed similar seasons which later turned to be good ones and which registered higher levels of rain, which in some cases exceeded the general average.

During this season, rain started falling on Oct. 11 in small quantities, but the actual season started on Nov. 19 with relatively high quantities of rain, particularly in the northern area, in view of a depression accompanied by strong wind, which affected the country for three days, Dr. Abanda said.

He added that the quantities of rain which fell during October were above the general average for the month in most parts of Jordan, except for Aqaba and temperatures were two degrees less than the average temperature. The rainfall in November was less than the monthly average except in the far eastern areas. Most of the rain which fell in the east was caused by unstable weather conditions while temperatures during this month were higher than the average, he continued.

Regarding the overall quantities of rain which fell until the end of November, Dr. Abanda said that they were less than the general average in most parts of Jordan, with the exception of Ruweisah.

Yarmouk University registered the highest amount of rainfall, 53.9 millilitres, while Aqaba airport received no rain. Deir Alla in the central Jordan Valley registered 21.5 millilitres.

Majali, N. Yemeni minister discuss education issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali and visiting North Yemeni Minister of Industry, Economy and Trade Ahmad Al Barakat Monday reviewed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation in education.

Mr. Majali expressed Jordan's readiness to meet North Yemen's needs for trained Jordanian expertise, especially in the educational field. He added that the educational agreements signed between the two countries stress the necessity for further bolstering the scope of bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Attending the meeting were Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajul Al Muasher, Acting Secretary General of the Ministry of Education Ahmad Al Bashairah and a number of senior ministry officials.

The guest minister on his part hailed the efficiency of Jordanian teachers which, he said, had prompted the Yemeni government to increase the number of Jordanian teachers seconded to North Yemen in addition to increasing the number of seats allocated for North Yemeni students at Jordanian educational institutions.

Mr. Barakat pointed out that the aim of the meeting was to implement agreements signed between the two countries and pointed out that a North Yemeni educational delegation will visit Jordan shortly to discuss details in this respect.

Later Monday Mr. Barakat and the accompanying delegation visited Al Hussein pharmaceutical factories company in Salt where they were briefed by the company's chairman of the board Amin Shugair on its development, production capacity and marketing as well as its projects. After touring the company's various sections, the guest minister expressed his admiration for the high standard which the drug industry has reached in Jordan. The company manufactures most kinds of medicines in accordance with world pharmaceutical standards and exports some of its products to a number of neighbouring Arab countries, including North Yemen.



His Royal Highness Prince Faisal is welcomed to Cranwell by British Royal Air Force commanders at the start of his officer training course in England.

Prince Faisal joins air force training course in England

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal has joined a Royal Air Force (RAF) training course at the specialised college of Cranwell in the English Midlands, according to a report in 'Britain Today', a magazine prepared for the British Foreign Office by the Central Office of Information in London.

The report said that Prince Faisal has joined a course with about 100 other students for initial officer training followed by flying training on Jet Provost and Hawk Trainer aircraft. The Prince graduated from a United States University earlier this year with a degree in electronics and will spend two years with the RAF as his pilot's course.

Prince Faisal was welcomed to the RAF college in Cranwell by a senior RAF commander and the commandant of the college.

Value In Action



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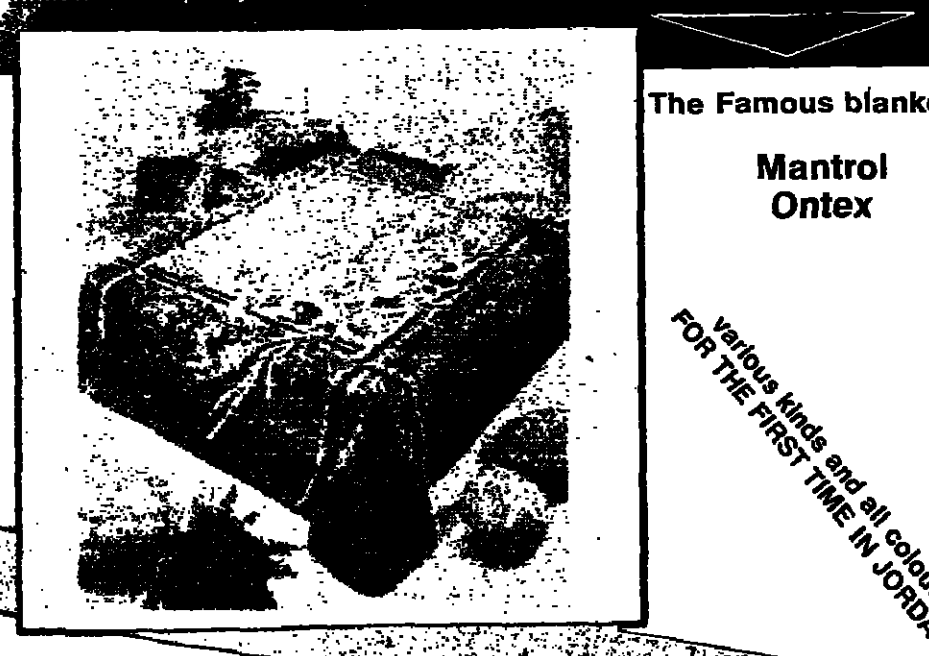
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Civil service reforms: the local imperative

By Rami G. Khouri

IN CASE you missed the news item in the newspapers the other day, you may not have known that during its last regular meeting the cabinet allocated the sum of JD 40,000 for the Al Humra area services council, in the Salt region, to build an asphalted road to a garbage dump. The cabinet also approved JD 10,000 to provide a tractor and snowplow to serve several villages in the Ajloun/Anjara area.

Not high matters of state policy, you might think, as I did, and perhaps budgetary allocations that might be handled by an authority slightly less senior than the entire Jordanian government. What struck me about this item was its juxtaposition with the news, a few days earlier, that the royal commission to reorganise the national civil service had met and formed three sub-committees to study how the civil service could be made more efficient.

The fact that the cabinet itself is sometimes involved in approving allocations for tractors, snowplows and new rural roads would seem to highlight the real need that exists to re-examine the administrative structure of the realm. For years, I have often made it a point to go in person to conduct routine formalities at various government agencies handling

such matters as water, telephone, electricity, taxation, residence and work permits and the like. In some cases, when the effort and time required to complete a routine transaction reach levels that are beyond my otherwise magnanimous levels of patience, understanding and brotherly love, I ask someone else to carry around the papers from office to office and complete the transaction for me.

My experience has taught me two rather contradictory lessons: 1) that the majority of individuals working in the civil service are by nature kind and lovable folks who will often go out of their way to facilitate the completion of a routine administrative transaction, but that 2) the structural nature of the national administrative system, as opposed to its human components, is an unwieldy beast that often overwhelms even the kindest and most benign employee, and sometimes transforms him or her into an uncaring, dismissive and positively unhelpful soul.

The dilemma is one we have lived with for decades, and probably has no easy solution. I certainly do not have a satisfactory answer to the challenge of how we reform the civil service to make it more efficient and humane. But there are some patterns that

seem to recur throughout the civil service, and that the royal commission would do well to recognise and address empathically.

Perhaps the most bothersome is the tendency of some, though certainly not all, government employees to deal with a problem by pushing it off on someone else. The irony is that the employee who will summarily dismiss your question or complaint by asking you to go to some other office will, in the next instance, greet a friend or colleague with effusive kindness and complete his transaction within minutes, if not moments.

The problem therefore is not one of a citizenry that is unkind by the force of biology or heavenly fiat. To the contrary, Jordanians as a rule are kind and helpful folk, as we all know. What, then, makes a civil servant occasionally unkind, unhelpful or even arrogant to some members of the public, but positively gracious to others?

The administrative/political structure of the civil service is perhaps partly to blame, and the main culprit. I would think it is probably the lack of a system of public accountability and oversight. The civil servant confronted with a particularly vexing or tedious problem will often find it easiest to send the

petitioning member of the public off to another department or office, knowing that he, the civil/public servant, will not be held accountable for his actions.

The dissatisfied member of the public will usually get around the problem by going over the employee's head to a higher authority, perhaps the department head in the same office or someone in the headquarters of the department in question. This means a citizen conducting a routine administrative affair sometimes has to spend extra time, and the people higher up in the civil service have to do the work that should be done by the line employees. The transaction is completed in the end, but at an extra cost of time, effort and goodwill to both the citizen and the civil servants.

One possibility that the royal commission might usefully explore is to drastically decentralise decision-making powers, and simultaneously establish mechanisms by which civil servants are more directly accountable to the citizens they are hired to serve. If local employees always feel they are able to fall back on the safety valve of pushing off an administrative transaction onto their superiors, or to other offices in other parts of the country, to the detriment of a cit-

izen who has spent days trying to complete an ordinary bureaucratic matter, then the inefficiencies we sometimes suffer will be with us for a very long time. If, however, the public has an effective mechanism by which it can hold public employees accountable for their actions, those civil servants who have drifted into institutionalised inefficiency will have to think twice in the future.

Ultimately, the matter will have to be addressed in terms of that universal human factor: money. After all, the civil service is financed largely by the domestic tax revenues collected by the state from the citizenry. If the public finances the public sector's services and activities, the public has a right to demand better service from those whom it pays to serve it.

How to establish appropriate and workable mechanisms to activate a more rigorous system of accountability is something I am unable to answer myself, though I suspect the royal commission has the authority and the incentive to bring in qualified people who might be able to come up with some suggestions.

We might think of experimenting with ombudsmen on a local basis, or perhaps establishing joint overview committees composed of members

of the public and private sectors. It might also be useful for parliamentary committees to hold the occasional public hearing, for example to look into the operations of different government agencies. At such hearings, members of the public could be invited to come and recount their experiences, and offer their suggestions. It is also reasonable to suggest that Jordan should start examining the merits of a decentralised tax system, perhaps on a governorate basis. Local taxes could be used to finance local services, and the officials in charge of allocating how those local revenues should be spent could be elected within the governorates. The entire civil service would then become more directly accountable to fellow citizens in the same area.

The experience of most other countries around the world suggests that the most efficient bureaucracies are those which have a means to be checked and altered by the local citizens who finance and benefit from them in the first place. If those looking into our civil service would keep in mind this fundamental equation and build upon it, we could hope to look forward to changes that would vastly improve the efficiency and services of our public sector.

Third World needs ties

IN THE wake of Britain's decision to withdraw from UNESCO, we would do well to review more seriously the results of the recent meeting in Tehran of the members of the Organisation of Asian Pacific News Agencies (OANA).

Established in 1961 under United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's auspices, OANA has unfortunately languished in a state of virtual dormancy for well over two decades. The Tehran meeting apparently was an attempt to revitalise the organisation and possibly make it run on the right track.

The importance to developing countries of an organisation like OANA is all too obvious. Their dependence on Western news media and sources for information about one another is, to say the least, deplorable. Ironically, the countries of the Third World know less about one another than they do about Western countries and, worse still, what little they know about one another comes their way through sometimes slanted, sometimes distorted, reportage provided by sources and media organs some of which seem to have an abiding interest in denigrating non-aligned countries and their freedom to follow independent policies on various issues in international affairs. Further, it is not uncommon that some organs are sometimes used to try to dish out both misinformation and "dysinformation" to mislead the Third World in order to perpetuate the industrialised countries' economic and cultural sway over the developing countries.

Exposure to biased and wrong information provided by some people and media in the west is hardly conducive to develop and strengthen Third World solidarity which is a sine qua non for any successful negotiation with the affluent North towards reducing and eventually eliminating the horrendous economic disparities between North and South. It is, therefore, high time that OANA, among others, start collaborating vigorously with its UNESCO-sponsored regional counterparts in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America to usher in a new era of mutual understanding among developing countries — an understanding based on a systematic dissemination of information and oriented towards forging closer links among Third World countries.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Joint plot

JORDAN has expressed regret over Britain's withdrawal from UNESCO, a move considered by many as a result of pressure from the United States which had earlier pulled out from the world body. When the U.S. left UNESCO, it intended to destroy the organisation and, when it failed to do so on its own, it decided to persuade its allies to abandon the organisation, set up to build bridges of understanding among nations of the world. The United States' role within UNESCO was not devoted to serving the causes of human culture and civilisation but rather to supporting Israeli stands and Zionist plans in the occupied Arab territories designed to obliterate the Arab and Islamic culture and desecrate the holy Islamic and Christian places and sites. Through its policies the United States has enabled Israel to perpetuate its aggression on the Arab and Islamic land and culture and to continue a drive aimed at liquidating the presence of Arab people and settling Zionists in their place. Britain has now taken a similar hostile stand by abandoning programmes to preserve human culture and civilisation. The British move came at a time when London and Washington signed a military pact which bears the seeds of enmity towards humanity.

Al Dustour: Display of solidarity

IN a telephone call to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, King Hussein reiterated Jordan's firm stand in supporting Iraq and its people and armed forces in their endeavours to repel the Iranian aggression. The King's call comes at a time when Iranian leaders keep boasting of their intention to launch a new offensive on Iraq and which is destined to meet the same ignominious defeat like all the others that preceded it. The call is a show of solidarity among brothers and a Jordanian pledge to help Iraq in its efforts to defend the Arab Nation's eastern borders. In contrast, the rest of the Arab Nation is regrettably adopting an impasse stand with regard to this five-year-old war. The Arab stand encouraged Iran to pursue its futile efforts and aggressive designs against Iraq. We have deep confidence in Iraq and its armed forces, and we are sure they will deal a devastating blow to the enemy, but if all the Arabs supported the Iraqis the Iranian leaders would not be in a position to adhere to their stand and pursue a hostile attitude towards the Arabs. The King's call should prompt all Arabs to follow Jordan's position and stand by their brothers in Iraq.

Sawt Al Shaab: Economies need political moves

WE do respect the Council of Arab Economic Unity and its decisions. But we believe that these decisions and resolutions will remain without meaning unless they are backed by political decision in the Arab World's capitals. Without such backing the resolutions will never be put into practice. The council's secretary general submitted a report about activities over the past year and a plan for the coming five years. We hope all the points in the report will be headed by Arab leaders. We also hope that these leaders take their economic issues to the coming Riyadh summit to back joint Arab action and so put an end to Arab failures and frustrations. We are in dire need of joint Arab action that can restore self-confidence to the Arab people everywhere. If the Arabs can forge an economic unity at least along the lines of the European Community system then the Arabs are united and their economic unity would sooner or later lead to political unity.

By Roger Cohen

ROME — It's testimony to the political clout of Bettino Craxi that a faintly troubling question is widely asked in Italy these days: Can the country be governed without him?

As he becomes the longest-lived prime minister of the Italian republic, Mr. Craxi's heavy-set frame seems to occupy the fulcrum of power more massively than ever. Other politicians appear — literally — dwarfed. Even when his centrist, five-party coalition looked as if it had collapsed last month, no alternative to this bustling Socialist was seriously considered.

In the revolving-door world of Italian politics, where 43 governments have come and gone since World War II and strong personal leadership has been conspicuously absent, this is a revolutionary change. Some consider it positive, but to others it seems menacing. After 834 days in power, Mr. Craxi is as controversial as he is dominant.

Conflicting views

"He has no definite views on anything, just a ferocious will for power. He's a dangerous man," says Giorgio La Malfa, deputy leader of the Republican Party, which is in Mr. Craxi's coalition. Catello Cosentino, a political professor at Rome University, argues that "any overall assessment of Mr. Craxi must be very positive. He's helped the economy and given the impression that things are getting done."

Such disparate and strong views reflect Mr. Craxi's forcefulness. It's hard to feel indifferent toward him. Tall and thrusting where former leaders often seemed self-effacing and stooped, he has come to embody the image of a sleek, newly self-confident Italy that has overcome the trauma of Red Brigade terrorism. He has inspired a wave of international investment, halved inflation and conveyed a new sense of vitality and stability.

But as his premiership continues, some say his real aims are unclear. They ask if continuing in office is his only objective and whether his dynamic image has been matched by real achievements, especially in the last year.

Mr. Craxi himself does not give many clues to his intentions. Contemptuous of the press, he tends to refuse interviews. By turns bullying and defensive, blunt and ironic, he seems almost to enjoy surrounding himself with an aura of aloofness and mystery. His small eyes, buried behind spectacles, give little away.

To many, he appears a paradoxical character. Brought up in Milan and rising to power in Rome, he combines a hard-headed Milanese pragmatism with a penchant for the Levantine political intrigue of the capital. He likes straight talk, but also enjoys the hackroom deals that are the stuff of Roman political life. He talks of a more modern Italian state, but plays the old game of party patronage to the hilt. He's a Socialist, but there's little that is identifiably Socialist in his policies.

Clear gift for survival

All this makes judging his aims more difficult. One thing is clear, however: He has an exceptional gift for political survival.

At the head of a wide coalition of the Christian Democrats, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats, as well as his own Socialist Party, Mr. Craxi has shown sure political instincts in manoeuvring to stay in office three times longer than the average post-war government. That his party has only 11.4 per cent of the national vote, compared with the Christian Democrats' 32.9 per cent has been made to seem irrelevant.

Mr. Craxi has artfully exploited his party's pivotal position. He knows his allies fear he may eventually decide to work with the Communists, who have 30 per cent of the vote. And, increasingly, he has used his strong personal popularity to bolster his bargaining power in the coalition.

This was particularly clear during the recent Achille Lauro hijacking crisis. In a series of powerful speeches, Mr. Craxi appealed directly to the country over such controversial decisions as the release of Palestinian Mohammed Abbas, who the U.S. says is a terrorist. He stirred something Italians generally reserve for soccer-nationalist fervour and received wide acclaim.

He also worried his coalition partners, who seemed to sense that they could no longer hold Mr. Craxi in check. Mr. Craxi fueled their fears with a mild overture to the Communist Party and an impromptu statement that armed struggle by the Palestine Liberation Organisation was legitimate. "Mr. Craxi must realise he represents the whole coalition, and not just a small part of it," says Guido Bodrato, a Christian Democrat. Gianfranco Miglio, an eminent constitutionalist, commented in a newspaper article that "Mr. Craxi seems to have the illusion that he has the powers of a directly elected prime minister, and is not merely a moderator in a coalition government."

Not a figurehead

The truth is, however, that unlike many of his predecessors, Mr. Craxi is no longer a mere figurehead. By surviving, he has gained the authority of a leader. "He's given people the impression that he's decisive and acts, even perhaps more than is really so, and they like this," says Piero Gastaldo, a sociologist at the Agnelli Research Foundation in Turin. "He's changed the mood of the country."

It's less clear, Mr. Gastaldo concedes, what Mr. Craxi's plans are. If his first 18 months in office were marked by some real achievements, the last year has seemed more directionless.

It has been a year or more since the achievements considered landmarks of the Craxi administration. These include cutting wage indexation despite Communist opposition, clamping down on tax evasion and guiding inflation down to 8.5 per cent from almost double that figure.

These moves created a sense that something had really changed in Italy after the terrorist-dominated "years of lead." With Mr. Craxi apparently in firm control, investments started flooding to the Milan Stock Exchange, the "Made in Italy" vogue blossomed abroad, managers talked aggressively about profit and major private companies in the north surged toward record performances with unions unusually compliant. Mr. Craxi wasn't directly responsible for all this, of



course, but he was buoyed by it.

Economy falters

Recently, however, he has appeared to falter. Inflation hasn't come down any further since early this year and remains high for a major industrial power. The budget deficit has continued to widen, to about 15 per cent of gross national product. The national debt is also mounting, and will probably overtake GNP in 1986.

"This government has done very little, if anything, on the public-sector deficit. Long-term public finance problems have just not been tackled," says Luigi Spaventa, a prominent economist. Many analysts believe the 1986 budget now before Parliament won't make much of a dent in the deficit. "Mr. Craxi just doesn't take a real interest in the budget problem," says an official who knows him well. "His eyes glaze over."

The result, several economists say, is that the huge deficit will continue to drive up interest rates, inflation and consumption, fueling a balance-of-payments deficit that Bank of Italy Governor Carlo Ciampi recently called "worrying

for the country's credibility on international financial markets." There is little evidence that Mr. Craxi has the political will, or strategy, to confront these longstanding economic problems.

Instead, he talks vaguely about "modernising" Italy, secularising its culture and streamlining its heavy-handed public administration. "Italy is governed by slowness," he has said. "There's an enormous need for a more efficient state... The gap between the vitality of society and our institutions is too great."

Though he has streamlined some cabinet decision making, Mr. Craxi doesn't always appear consistent in this aim.

When the state industry group Istituto per la Ricostruzione Industriale tried to sell its food unit to industrialist Carlo De Benedetti, Mr. Craxi blocked the transaction. The move was widely seen as crude political meddling, evoking an old view in Italy that economic resources are there to be divided up among the parties.

Same spoils system

"I don't think Mr. Craxi has changed anything," says Alberto

Cavallari, a former editor of Corriere Della Sera and a man known to dislike the prime minister. "We have the same political spoils system and economic problems as before. Everything has been sacrificed for the sake of preserving the government."

Many others argue that despite the problems, the Craxi era — for by Italian standards it amounts to that — has been one of change.

It will be hard to return to the gray succession of Christian Democrat leaders leading largely indistinguishable governments. The country has been given a fillip simply by having a younger man from a different party in office for so long. There is a sense that government is less corrupt.

"Italy has made a jump on the international scene," says Socialist Labour Minister Gianni De Michelis. "Before, nobody took an interest in Italy's politics or politicians. Mr. Craxi has changed that."

Losing direction

In all, though, the changes wrought by Mr. Craxi may turn out to be more of image than substance.

Hopes for Uganda peace virtually dashed

By Michael Rank
Reuters

NAIROBI — After 20 years of endless bloodshed and brutality, there appears to be little hope that peace will return soon to Uganda as talks between the military government and rebels have all but broken down.

Neighbouring Kenya has been hosting the talks since August but repeated announcements in the past two weeks that an agreement was about to be signed have turned out to be little more than wishful thinking.

The two sides are now locked in increasingly bitter fighting, but Western diplomats rule out the prospect of a military victory by either the government or the National Resistance Army (NRA) guerrillas.

"It's reached a stage where the two sides have agreed not to

agree, but neither side wants to go so far as to pull out of the talks," said one diplomat, who asked not to be identified.

"Each time they come close to an agreement, (NRA leader Yoweri) Museveni throws in a new demand. It's hard not to see the NRA as the main obstacle to an agreement," he added.

Another Western observer said the head of state, General Tito Okello, was under strong pressure from more aggressive military colleagues to mount an all-out offensive against the rebels.

Diplomats said the government was at an advantage at the moment, with 12,000 to 15,000 troops, compared with the NRA's 5,000 to 6,000.

But the rebel army was growing steadily and its troops were much better disciplined than government soldiers, who are notorious for robbing and molesting

civilians, they said. "The government army's logistics are terrible and the only attack they know is the truck-borne assault," said one Western diplomat.

But the government may decide to mount an attack on the NRA in their stronghold in the southwest while they still easily outnumber the rebels, he added.

The war has taken a terrible toll in lives and morale, and many countries have suspended their assistance programmes to Uganda because it is too dangerous to post aid workers there.

The United States has only one government aid officer in Kampala where it had seven before the coup in July that brought Okello to power. It has no plans to resume large-scale operations until security improves, a Western source said.

"For every day that goes by, it will take an extra week or even a month to get Uganda back on its feet. The economy is in a state of collapse and at the moment things can only get worse," a Kampala-based diplomat said.

Even if the Nairobi talks were to result in a peace agreement, tribal, political and religious rivalries run so deep that there is little hope of an early end to the fighting, Ugandan and Western observers said.

These antagonisms have been exacerbated by atrocities and brutality which were the hallmarks of former dictator Idi Amin's rule in 1971-79 as well under President Milton Obote, ousted for the second time last July.

"Rebel leader" Museveni said recently the government had backed out of a peace agreement because a draft version required Kampala to try all those who committed atrocities.

Japan's cultured pearls are American at heart

National Geographic
News Service

CAMDEN, Tenn. — Sitting in a flat-bottomed boat in the chocolate-colored Tennessee River, John Latendresse smoked a cigarette, sipped his third Diet Coke of the morning, and observed, "I don't suppose this looks too much like pearl country."

Ironically, it is. In today's cultured-pearl business, which Japan conceived, controls, and still tightly guards as a national secret, "the very heart of cultured saltwater pearls is a purely American product," author-photographer Fred Ward writes in the August National Geographic.

The shell-bead nuclei surgically inserted into oysters growing in Japanese waters come from the shells of mussels found in the muddy bottoms of the Tennessee and Mississippi River valleys. It is nuclei along with live tissue that stimulate oysters to produce nacre, the coating that gives pearls their colour, lustre, and appearance.

Washboard mussels rich

Latendresse, president of both the Tennessee Shell Co., Inc., and American Pearl Farms, sells 60 to 65 per cent of all shells used for culturing. At least half of these are from washboard mussels, which can be nearly an inch thick near the hinge. No others in the world have such composition and thickness; up to 20 high-quality nuclei can be carved from each shell. "It's kinda satisfying, walking anywhere in the world, looking at a woman, and knowing that most of the necklace she's wearing came from right here," Latendresse told Ward. Most of a cultured pearl is the mussel shell inside.

Once more precious than diamonds, pearls — religious symbol of wisdom and wealth — were coveted by history's queens, inspired Roman invasions, and still help back Iran's currency as part of the state jewels.

Among the first gems to adorn mankind, pearls have never been more popular than they are today, especially in the United States.

which buys about half of all Japan's pearls — three times as many as any other country. Pearls are plentiful and affordable (a single average pearl in a necklace retails for under \$18). And, Ward writes, 1980s free-form fashions encourage wearing them at any hour with any clothes.

In modern times, pearls were never higher prized or priced than during the 1920s, the last years before the natural ones were almost entirely replaced on the world market by the cultured type. Completely the creation of the oyster, natural pearls were rare and, for thousands of years, came mostly from the Arabian Gulf.

Cartier acquired its Fifth Avenue headquarters after World War I by trading two strands of naturals (priced then at more than \$1 million) for a matron's town house.

Earring launched campaign

Previously, pearl fever reached its height among ancient Romans, who spent astronomical sums on these coveted gems. The Roman general Vitellius paid for an entire campaign by selling just one of his mother's earrings, according to the historian Suetonius. By the first century B.C., pearls were first in value among all precious things, Pliny the Elder wrote.

Cleopatra is said to have wagered Marc Anthony that she could give most expensive dinner in history. The queen removed one of her huge, matched-pearl earrings, crushed and dissolved it in a goblet of wine (or vinegar), and drank. When she offered Anthony the other earring, the bet was declared won. Pliny wrote that those pearls then were worth 60 million sesterces, or more than 1.8 million ounces of fine silver.

Pearls retained their value above all gems until the early 19th century, when diamonds surpassed them. Then early in the 20th century, Kokichi Mikimoto, son of a noodle vendor, was granted a Japanese patent of the world's first cultured round pearl. His cultured-pearl business at its peak had more than 12 million oysters and produced 75 per cent of the world's pearls.

Mikimoto, who attributed his



Creations of man and mollusk, these strands of Asian cultured freshwater pearls show the varied shapes that a skilled "implanter" can make mussels produce. Although saltwater pearls from oysters have dominated the cultured-pearl market, freshwater pearls are becoming increasingly popular (NGS photo)

long life (96 years) to two pearls he swallowed every morning, kept oysters implanted with nuclei in the water for more than three years for maximum thickness of the nacre, the substance that also lines the oyster shell as mother-of-pearl.

Although most Japanese pearl operators vigorously deny that quality is diminishing today, Ward, who interviewed more than 100 representatives of the pearl trade, found that the majority of pearls are too thinly coated, nearly all are bleached and dyed, and that exporters often circumvent the

Japanese government pearl inspection.

Most cultured pearls may come from Japan, but the grandest are nurtured in South Sea Oysters, which are often more than a foot in diameter. The world's largest pearl oyster, Pinctada maxima, produces cultured pearls up to millimetres in diameter, about double the size of the normal Japanese pearls.

South Sea white pearls come from Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Australia. Iridescent peacock-hued black pearls are the exotic creations of



The rare inch-long pearl La Peregrina, "the wanderer," passed through the hands of European rulers until Richard Burton bought it for Elizabeth Taylor in 1969 for \$37,000. Cartier designed the necklace and earrings. The pearl meant freedom for the slave who found it off Panama in the mid-16th century (NGS photo)

black-lipped oysters found in Polynesia. So rare are large high-quality South Sea pearls, white or black, that they can sell for \$4,000 to \$40,000 each.

Freshwater source

Although saltwater pearls have dominated the cultured-pearl market, freshwater pearls, which come from mussels, are becoming increasingly available. Usually less expensive, freshwater pearls are as close to natural pearls as culturing can get. Instead of starting from a shell nuclei, these

pearls are seeded with pieces of mantle tissue placed directly into the mussel's own fleshy mantle. They are solid pearls.

China recently exploded onto the freshwater pearl market and today leads the world, expecting to produce from 50 to 80 tons this year. But Latendresse of American Pearl Farms predicts that "the U.S. is the future of cultured freshwater pearls."

In 1987 his firm plans to start marketing large round pearls cultured from up to 24 species of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Texas mussels.

U.S. gives warm response to Egyptian-French film

By Joanne Nix

WASHINGTON — An Egyptian film about Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian campaign of 1798 has received praise from American audiences during several recent showings in the Washington area.

The 1985 film, "Adieu Bonaparte," the first ever French coproduction with Egypt, was written and directed by the internationally known Egyptian director, Youssef Chahine.

The film was selected to be shown in competition at the 1985 Cannes International Film Festival where it received extremely favourable reviews. It was later shown by invitation in the First Tokyo International Film Festival.

"Adieu Bonaparte" features large-scale depictions of such giant set pieces as the French routing of the Mamelukes at the Battle of the Pyramids and the Cairo uprising. But American audiences have been delighted with the intimate nature of the film. They can identify with the love stories and

interpersonal family relationships they see on the screen.

"Adieu Bonaparte" was screened some weeks ago at the American Film Institute located in Washington's Kennedy Centre. According to the AFI, both times the film was shown, it received enthusiastic responses and was completely sold out.

It was shown again in Washington as part of a festival of Chahine films coordinated by the Georgetown University Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS). Chahine and Mohsin Mohiedine, Egyptian actor and screenwriter, made guest appearances. Because of Chahine's reputation and his scheduled appearance in person, "Adieu Bonaparte" played to a full house and from 50 to 100 more people could not be accommodated at the evening show.

Marisa Tamari of the Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, reported that attendance for all the Chahine films was good. "The houses improved as more people

heard about the quality of the films in the series," she noted. "I added that 'all the people who came up to me after the film said very positive things about it.' Most of the audience came in off the street... They all liked the film because it was well made."

Rod Edelman, a journalist and former employee of the American Film Institute, viewed the film at a press screening October 3. He marvelled that "a film of such epic proportions could be produced with a \$2.7 million budget." Edelman suggested, however, that "Adieu Bonaparte," and other Arab films that have been shown in the United States ought to be preceded with explanations of the Napoleonic campaign in Egypt so American audiences largely unfamiliar with Egyptian or French history might better understand two warring nations.

The film-festival organisers agreed that another aspect of the film which appeals to humanistic American audiences is the teacher-pupil relationship between the French General Caffarelli and two Egyptian brothers.

The central narrative of the film concerns the brothers' reaction to the invasion of their country.

The hero, Aly, faces the impossible task of reconciling his friendship with Caffarelli, Napoleon's close friend and chief engineer, to his unwavering loyalty to Egypt. He finds himself having to defend his position to both French and Egyptian alike, and especially to his brother Bakr, a student of theology, who rejects the French as infidel oppressors.

According to Chahine, "Although you'll see the film in an historical context, it is, in fact, a modern story of mutual respect very representative of what is happening today."

He warned his audience before the film was screened to discard any preconceived ideas they might have about Napoleon or the French. "The film will explain what 100 million young Arabs are thinking and how much more they

know now than during the colonial period."

"But above all, Chahine said, 'this is an intimate story about love. My object was to disturb you, enough to ask questions about your own love. I also deal with people who are called traitors or collaborators if they want to talk to the other fellow.'"

He explained that although his film is named "Adieu Bonaparte," the French General actually has a very small role. The story of his invasion is told through the eyes of a family devastated by the invasion. It deals sympathetically with General Caffarelli who learns humanity and finally rejects Napoleon thanks to his young Arab prodigies. Chahine revealed that when he depicted the French with tolerance, he was criticised by leftists in Egypt and some filmmakers at Cannes.

"Although Bonaparte did a lot of harm to our people, that doesn't mean I don't see the other side which Nasser himself called the 'Renaissance,' the director explained.

"Napoleon was a fabulous propagandist but his learned colleagues brought modern advancement with them."

"The question that I've always asked and I think should be discussed a little bit more often," Chahine continued, "is not just pure politics but the quality of love. Love can be exploitative or it can be an exchange between husband and wife, father and son, or, as in the film between friends."

Chahine, who has visited the United States more than 30 times, said he felt Americans know too little about the modern Arab World. "You have so many public television hours. Use some of them to know the other fellow," he said.

Other films in the Chahine series which will run until the end of next week include: "Bab El Hadid," "El Ekhitar," "Al Asfour," "El Naser Salah El Dine," "Iskandar," "Hadouta Masriya," "El Ard," and "Awdat Al Ibn Dal" — U.S. Information Agency.

1,500 journalists compete for a seat on space shuttle in '86

By William Stracener

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, South Carolina — The 1,500 Americans interested in becoming the first reporter in space include an 82-year-old former publisher and one man willing to be "the first journalist to be severely nauseated in space."

Albert Scroggins, dean emeritus of the University of South Carolina School of Journalism, who has been called on to help pick the best candidate, said he is looking for someone who can "write well" and be an articulate radio and television broadcaster.

The project is being administered for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) by the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication headquartered at the university.

"It's time to get an old girl up there and let her try it out," says Alita H.T. Dickerson, the 82-year-old former publisher of a weekly newspaper in Smackover, Arkansas, of her bid to fly aboard the space shuttle next September. "I'll sure try to go through with it if they give me a chance. I have a broader view of life."

Mrs. Dickerson, who now lives in an apartment in Pomona, California, is one of more than 1,500 journalists seeking the ultimate out-of-town assignment, the opportunity offered by NASA to fly on a space shuttle mission and

report the experience.

Another journalist wrote that he was willing to be "the first journalist to be severely nauseated in space at taxpayers' expense."

Formal applications for the post are being mailed out this week to the 1,500 people who have shown interest.

There is no age limit placed on the applicants, and the only requirements are that they must be U.S. citizens, have the backing of their employers, have at least five years experience as journalists

and pass a minimal physical examination that would not automatically exempt someone who wears glasses or a hearing aid, Scroggins said.

"We are interpreting the term 'journalist' broadly to include reporters, editorial columnists, broadcasters, photo journalists and editorial cartoonists," he said. "We felt there would be 125,000 people qualified from the job they do on a day-to-day basis."

"There's only one seat, but at the same time we're trying to find

someone who can write well and who will be articulate in broadcasting back to earth. There are a lot of people who can do that," Scroggins said.

The journalist ultimately selected for the flight will have to agree to be a pool reporter — sending reports to all other institutions besides his own — for 30 days after returning from space. But Scroggins said he realises the person will probably keep a diary and write a book later.

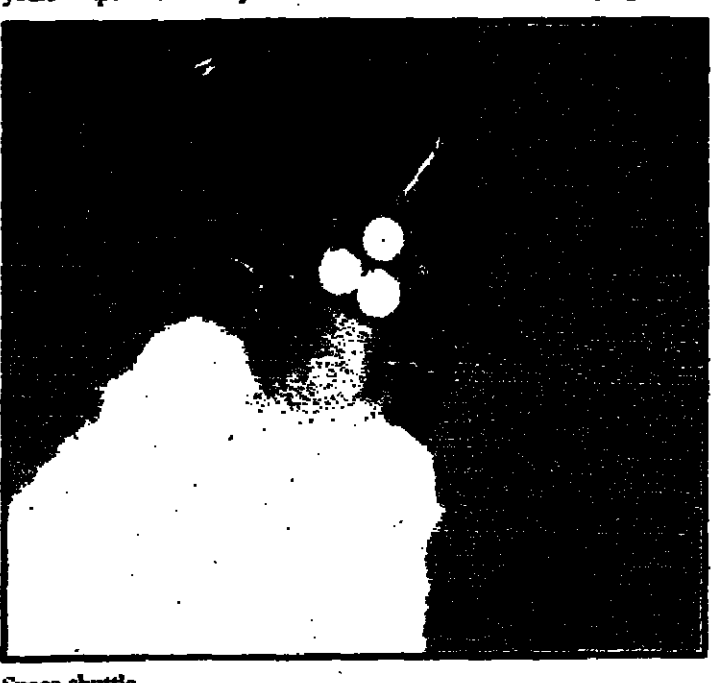
The support of the journalist's employer is necessary because the person will not go on NASA's payroll during the six-month training period.

"We felt it would be a conflict of interest," Scroggins said.

The application is about 12 pages long, but about half of that includes instructions and an explanation of the project. Three pages are for three recommendations of the applicant's choosing.

Jennifer McGill, executive director of the association, said the application is not much different than a job application.

Applicants will have to submit samples of their work, and the form will require respondents to answer two essay questions. The questions are designed to learn how articulate they are, why they want to fly and what they view as the future of journalism in space. Scroggins said.



Space shuttle

Colombia's tragedy could strike Japan

By Sally Solo
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Experts say a disaster similar to that which struck Colombia last week could occur any time in Japan, which is believed to have more volcanoes than any other country except Indonesia.

Japan's population of 120 million lives on an archipelago of volcanic origin. Of the nation's 250 volcanoes, 77 are considered active and 17 are kept under constant watch.

Indonesia, according to the Central Meteorological Agency, has 356 volcanoes, of which 129 are considered active. The agency studies volcanoes as well as the weather.

In Japan, thousands of people would be affected by almost any major eruption, officials say.

Towns of 10,000 to 20,000 population are located within 10 kilometres of most volcanoes, according to Yasuhiro Tanaka, director of the meteorological agency's volcano division.

An estimated 25,000 people were killed Nov. 13 when Colombia's Nevado Del Ruiz volcano erupted. The melting snowcap triggered huge mudslides that inundated the coffee-growing town of Armero.

"There have been such mud slides in the past, and theoretically it could happen again," said Manabu Komiya, a statistician for the CMA, in an interview.

Japan's acute awareness of the volcano peril was reflected in swift decisions to send medical teams and provide assistance of \$1.3 million and private donations to the stricken south American country.

"The possibility of a similar disaster must have crossed the minds of many people here upon hearing the news of the Colombian calamity. Unfortunately, their concern is justified," the mass circulation Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial.

Two other national newspapers, Yomiuri Shimbun and Mainichi Shimbun, said Japan could not be indifferent to the disaster and urged the government to increase immediate and long-term relief efforts.

"Japan, which suffers some sort of natural disaster almost every year, has learned to live with calamities and has accumulated knowledge on how to cope. Now is the time to put this knowledge to use internationally," Yomiuri said.

No CMA officials have gone to observe Nevado Del Ruiz, which had not had a major eruption for 390 years but Komiya said the

agency expects to receive a detailed report in about a month.

As part of Japan's intricate monitoring system, seismographs and other instruments are planted in the earth of a volcano's slope. Earth movement and temperatures are recorded at local observation points, where watch is also maintained with telescopes.

When unusual activity is detected, the CMA issues "volcano warnings" through a media network that relays information to area residents. Komiya said that on average, such warnings are issued 30-40 times a year.

In an interview, Tanaka said Japan's 20-year-old detection system is "worthy of praise," pointing out that of the 460 people who have died in Japanese eruptions since 1900, only three perished since 1965.

Nevertheless, he conceded that even state-of-the-art technology cannot second-guess mother nature.

"If we could know when a volcano was to erupt, that would be prescience," he said. "Sometimes we detect activity three days before an eruption and sometimes not. Sometimes there's no eruption after activity is noted. It doesn't vary mountain by mountain; it varies case by case."

According to records dating back to the 15th century, there have been 19 cases in Japan of volcanic eruption-related deaths exceeding 10 people. The most devastating was in 1792 when about 15,000 people died following the eruption of Unzen-Dake on Japan's southernmost main island, Kyushu.

In the most recent major incident, Mount Oyama on Miyakejima, 190 kms south of Tokyo, blew its top for the first time in 20 years on Oct. 3, 1983, sending gray smoke miles into the sky and forcing evacuation of about 4,500 villagers. Yearly disaster drills, conducted throughout Japan, were credited with helping to prevent any injuries.

The country's most famous mountain, Fuji, considered sacred by the Japanese, last erupted in 1707 and laid a blanket of ash over Edo, now Tokyo, 100 kilometres to the northeast. Fuji is among Japan's 77 "active" peaks.

Although it also is rated as one of the 17 most dangerous, thousands of tourists flock yearly to Mount Aso, a 1,592-metre peak 900 kms southwest of Tokyo. School groups and other excursionists cringe at a sound-and-light show explaining eruptions, then climb the mountain, whose sides are dotted with safety shelters.

Afghan couple get a taste of the 'free' U.S.

By Arthur Spiegelman
Reuters

NEW YORK — A young Afghan couple has been kept in separate wings of a jail here for the past 15 months, allowed to see each other for only an hour at a time, because they say they sought freedom but did not know the rules.

The rules keep Abdul G., 27, and his wife Fouzia, 25, apart. Instead, they have an international assortment of drug dealers, addicts, thieves and even murderers for company.

"If I had known all this would have happened, I would have stayed in Afghanistan and faced death," Abdul says.

Fouzia and Abdul are among 33 Afghans in the Immigration and Naturalisation Service's (INS) processing centre jail for attempting to enter the United States illegally.

Three Afghan teenagers held with them are so desperate that their lawyers say they want to return to Afghanistan, where they would face imprisonment or death. The Afghan prisoners have twice staged hunger strikes.

INS rules instituted in 1982 say that aliens trying to enter the country illegally should be jailed while immigration judges decide on their cases. Only very old, very young, very sick, or pregnant illegal immigrants escape detention.

Fouzia and Abdul, who spoke on condition that their last name be withheld to protect relatives in Afghanistan, were jailed two days after landing at New York's Kennedy Airport.

Fights bred by boredom and pettiness break out daily among the 250 inmates at the jail in a city office building.

Abdul, who has lost nearly 20 pounds in prison, has not exercised in the open air since June. He said he was suffering from several ailments, including a heart problem.

Fouzia, a small woman whom acquaintances say is profoundly depressed, can no longer bear to look out of her cell window. "It is too hard, I want to go," she says.

They had been married for about six months when they ended up in jail here after fleeing first Afghanistan and then Pakistan, where they feared both Afg-

hanistan spies and arrest.

Just 10 weeks after marriage, Abdul was jailed in Afghanistan for allegedly passing out anti-government leaflets. His brother is a resistance member and he himself supported the rebels in various ways.

He was sent to a military camp but fled during a rebel raid. Seeking refuge near the Pakistan border, he sent for his bride, whose parents too had been arrested. She arrived with her sister, who accompanied them to the United States, and to jail.

"If we went to any other country, we would expect to be detained, but not the United States — this is a free country," said Abdul.

Had they arrived before 1982, they would not be jailed, says Arthur Helton of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, which has been fighting for three years to have Afghans freed pending their appeals against deportation.

Helton said the detention policy was enacted after suits were brought against the INS for discriminating against Haitian refugees by detaining them. Helton said the result was new regulations decreeing "equal mistreatment for all."

U.S. government spokesmen insist that detaining would-be illegal aliens helps reduce their ranks, and does not violate a proud U.S. tradition of welcoming refugees.

Fouzia and Abdul said they tried to get U.S. visas in Karachi but were turned away at the American consulate. As they were leaving, a "travel agent" approached.

"He promised us documents that would get us into the United States and he swore it was perfectly legal. I believed him because he was in the consulate when I was there and he said he had done it many times," said Abdul.

The "travel agent" accompanied them first to Thailand, then to Romania. He was to fly with them to New York, and there give them their final documents. When he did not show, they sought airport immigration officers and explained their plight.

They were taken to a hotel for two nights, and then to jail. Immigration judges have ordered that the couple leave the United States.

Aspirin a day does the trick

By Oliver Gillie

AN aspirin a day can add 10 to 15 years to the life of someone who has had a first warning heart attack. The lives of thousands of middle-aged people could be saved and thousands more could avoid second crippling attacks if this simple remedy were used.

Confirmation that aspirin is beneficial in this way has come from a review of six studies made by Richard Peto, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Medical Research Council clinical trials unit in Oxford. His review has been accepted by the Federal Drugs Administration in Washington, which last week recommended an aspirin a day for heart attack victims and spoke of "dramatic" progress against death from heart attacks.

The six studies Peto reviewed, had tried to assess the benefits of aspirin in preventing heart attack and death. Individually, none of them was large enough to provide a conclusive answer. However, Peto developed a way to pool them and obtain statistically a valid result.

Peto found that aspirin reduced the risk of a second heart attack or death by 20 per cent. This means it has great potential for saving life, since heart disease kills more than a third of people who die between 35 and 70.

Aspirin works by reducing the clotting capability of the blood. Tiny cells in the blood called platelets stick together when tissues are damaged and blood clots. Aspirin delays this process, so clots are less likely to form in the body and

lodge in small blood vessels of the heart or brain, causing death.

"Even a junior aspirin taken once a day may be enough to alter the clotting properties of the blood," Peto says.

The benefits of taking aspirin have only been proved so far for those who have had a first heart attack or, in two other studies, for people who suffer from "unstable angina," a chest pain caused by heart disease, which becomes worse over several weeks.

Aspirin may help prevent heart attack or death for many more people. One day it may even be recommended as a daily pill for almost everyone, although it is still unclear whether benefits outweigh risks. Some 4,000 British doctors born before 1930 have been taking aspirin every day for the past six years as part of a trial organised by Peto and Sir Richard Doll, the distinguished epidemiologist. Results are expected in a few months.

Aspirin, particularly in large doses, can cause bleeding in the stomach, which occasionally is serious. So people who suffer from gastric problems such as peptic ulcers would be advised not to take it. Aspirin should not be taken by those undergoing surgery or taking anticoagulants — except on medical advice.

Two of the studies Peto analysed were organised by Dr. Peter Elwood, director of the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit in Caird, Three were carried out in the United States and one in Germany and Austria. —The Guardian.

Edberg routs Wilander to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Swedish teenager Stefan Edberg blitzed defending champion Mats Wilander in straight sets Monday to win the \$1.5 million Australian Open tennis title.

Edberg, who downed world number one Ivan Lendl in their semi-final Sunday, took less than two hours to beat his 21-year-old compatriot 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 in a rain-delayed final on the Kooyong centre court.

"This is the greatest moment in my life," he told the packed crowd at the end.

The 19-year-old, signalling what could be the start of a new era in Swedish tennis, ran circles around Wilander who was chasing his third straight win here.

Edberg, ranked sixth in the world and seeded fifth here, had had trouble with his volleying early in the two-week tournament but there was no sign of that Monday.

With his fearsome backhand working at full force too, he soon had Wilander — current world number three — looking shell-shocked.

The experienced defending champion was quite unable to find the right tactics to counter Edberg, who was playing in his first Grand Slam final.

Monday's emphatic victory

means the tall righthander from Vastervik has now won both the junior and senior Australian Open titles. In 1983 he completed the junior Grand Slam here.

Edberg is an anomaly in Swedish tennis.

Whereas the great Bjorn Borg and Wilander, as well as most other Swedes, have relied on staying on the baseline, Edberg is a relentless attacker.

He attacked from the outset Monday, never allowing Wilander to find any rhythm.

The final, originally scheduled for Sunday but postponed because of rain, was again delayed Monday morning when heavy showers flooded the Kooyong courts.

But when play finally began two and half hours late, Edberg came out firing.

He broke his more fancied rival in the tenth game to take the first set in 32 minutes.

And it was not long before he gained the ascendancy in the second set by again breaking Wilander, this time in the fourth game.

The teenager, who must now

surely be in line for a singles berth in Sweden's Davis Cup final team against West Germany in Munich later this month, polished off the second set in the ninth game with an ace.

Wilander Monday was again wearing an elbow brace on his right, serving, arm to protect it from strain.

He has worn the brace for most of the second week of the open but said it was not affecting his performances.

Edberg took a stranglehold on the match when he broke with a delicate drop shot in the third game of the final set.

Such was the younger Swede's dominance that Wilander, chasing his fifth Grand Slam title, did not have break points on Edberg's serve until the eighth game of the third set.

Wilander held two break points but the flashing Edberg groundstrokes whittled that back to deuce.

An overhead smash and a down-the-line backhand gave the teenager the game and a 5-3 lead.

Then in the ninth game, with Wilander serving, Edberg raced to an 0-40 lead to give him three championship points.

Wilander saved one with a smash off a miss-timed Edberg lob but that was as far as he could go.

U.S. Football Report

NEW YORK (AP) — The difference between the Los Angeles Raiders and Denver Broncos is six points, and the Raiders had to work overtime to prove it.

"That's what football is all about," coach Tom Flores said after his Raiders edged Denver 17-14 in overtime Sunday.

Los Angeles won the previous meeting between the two National Football League teams 31-28, also in overtime.

A 26-yard field goal by Chris Bahr lifted the Raiders to victory. But Denver coach Dan Reeves said that a miscommunication at the start of overtime led to the chain of events that culminated in the winning kick.

Light snow was falling when the Broncos won the toss to begin the extra session and Denver captain Barney Chavous elected to receive.

At the start of OT Denver was unable to move the ball. In their first two possessions, the Broncos had minus-2 yards in total offense and was unable to move past their own 20.

On Denver's third possession, pinned up deep in his own territory, quarterback John Elway dropped back to pass when he was sacked by defensive end Howie Long. Teammate Greg Townsend arrived a split second later, knocked the ball loose, then fell on the fumble at the Denver 8.

On the next play, 4:55 into overtime, Bahr kicked the winning three-pointer as the Raiders, down 14-0 at halftime, completed their successful comeback to raise their record to 10-4 and gain sole possession of first place in the AFC West.

Quarterback Boomer Esiason threw three touchdown passes as Cincinnati rolled to a stunningly easy victory in scoring the most points against Dallas since a 54-13 Cowboy loss to Minnesota in 1970.

Chargers 54, Steelers 44

Running back Gary Anderson ran two yards for the tie-breaking touchdown and, 24 seconds later, rookie safety Jeff Dale returned a pass interception 47 yards for a score to lift San Diego.

Seahawks 31, Browns 13

Quarterback Dave Krieg passed for four touchdowns, including two to Daryl Turner — his 11th and 12th TDs, as Seattle, 8-6, kept its playoff hopes alive. The loss snapped a three-game Cleveland winning streak.

Bears 17, Colts 10

Walter Payton rushed for 111 yards — extending his NFL record to nine straight games over 100 yards — and scored a touchdown to help Chicago outlast the stubborn Indianapolis Colts.

Dolphins 34, Packers 24

Quarterback Dan Marino passed for 345 yards and five touchdowns, including two in the fourth quarter, as Miami rallied after a furious second-half comeback by Green Bay to retain a share of the lead in the AFC East.

Robson: World Cup 'up for grabs'

LONDON (AP) — At least half the 24 qualifiers for next year's World Cup soccer finals are capable of winning the trophy, England's manager, Bobby Robson, was quoted as saying Sunday.

A week before the draw for the finals, a British press report quoted Robson as saying there was no obvious favourite on current form.

The mass-circulation News of the World newspaper asked Robson, who will fly to Mexico for the draw, to assess the chances of the leading contenders. Its report said the England manager was convinced that at least half the qualifiers could win the title.

"There is so little separating so many teams at the moment, it will depend in the end who peaks at the right time — as Italy did in 1982. The trophy is really up for grabs," Robson was quoted as saying.

No European team has won the World Cup outside Europe and Robson said the climate and conditions in Mexico will favour home nations and the South American teams.

But according to the News of

the World, Robson was emphatic that the team he most would like to avoid in the seeded draw, was European champion France.

Robson was quoted as saying: "On their day, France can beat anybody in the world. They have Europe's top player in Michel Platini and he's just part of a magnificent midfield."

"But the French will hope he avoids injury in the coming months."

Turning to other European candidates, Robson was quoted as saying: "People say I've got problems, but Italy's Enzo Bearzot and west Germany's Franz Beckenbauer will still be looking for an ideal formation during the group games."

"You can't rule out Belgium, who have the right temperament and looked so strong when I saw them qualify in Holland."

The report went on to quote Robson's assessment of World Cup first-timer Denmark.

"They have so many skilful players, but this will be their first World Cup and they have still to

prove they can play well over a testing period of three to four weeks."

With regard to the South American challengers, Robson was quoted as saying that the "dark horse" could be Uruguay.

"When they beat us on tour 18 months ago they were the best side England have met during my (three year) spell in charge."

"Argentina..." the England manager was quoted as saying, "will have the greatest (player) of them all in Diego Maradona."

"He was tremendous in their qualifying games despite having to contend with some brutal tackling."

According to the report, Robson said he envied the Brazilian manager, because he would be able to assemble 25-30 home-based players in February and keep them together without any club interference.

In England, and most other European countries, the league programme will continue until a few weeks before the World Cup, which starts at the end of May.

Profits finally loom for marathoners

By David Brough

Reuter

LONDON — Top marathon runners, who once plied their painful trade for nothing more than the "fun" of it, are suddenly tapping a rich financial seam.

Last month British athlete Steve Jones claimed \$35,000 for winning the America's marathon in Chicago. He also collected \$10,000 for breaking the course record and missed by one second a further \$50,000 for the world best time.

Jones's riches compare with the experience of another Briton, Ron Hill, who in 1970 broke the record for the Boston Marathon having taken part in the race only after a collection among club runners raised his fare to the United States.

"The big money started openly just three years ago, although there were some under-the-table payments before then," said Hill, who was European marathon champion in 1969, won the Commonwealth Games event in 1970 and ran in three Olympics.

"I'm envious of what other runners can now earn, but I'm not sorry or bitter about it," he said. "I admit that, at the back of my mind, I thought if I won an Olympic gold, I'd have hoped to capitalise on it."

Chris Brasher, who won the ste-

plechase gold medal for Britain at the 1956 Olympics and now organises the London Marathon, agreed with Hill that large payments were justified.

Referring to Jones's reward for winning in Chicago, Brasher said: "A tennis player like Lendl can take home sums like that every day of the week."

Brasher said that of the eight to 10 fast marathons a runner was capable of during his career he would probably give three or four of them "free" when competing in major championships such as the Olympics or Commonwealth Games.

"That knocks down the number of paid days he gets to only six or seven," Brasher said although he admitted a good Olympic performance would mean a runner could command higher sums in appearance money.

Carlos Lopes, Olympic champion and world record holder, was reported to have been offered \$75,000 to take part in the New York Marathon.

"In an ideal world all the prize money should be at the finish line," said Brasher.

But Hill said: "If the people of New York felt he was worth \$75,000 they would offer him that. I think they felt he was worth less, they'd have offered less. He got the market rate."

Ron Pickering, who coached long-jumper Lynn Davies to win a gold medal at the 1964 Olympics and who now comments on athletics, said he did not oppose appearance money.

"Entrepreneurs have to attract athletes to events. But appearance money should never be more than prize money."

Pickering said he thought top marathons, specifically the Chicago race, paid runners too much and some athletes received excessive payments.

He added there was an inquiry. "Marathon runners tend to have less athletic ability than people like Daley Thompson (the Olympic decathlon champion)."

Hill and Brasher agreed the new money should not worsen attitudes in the sport. "It gives the runners the motivation to do well. They don't stop running just because a few athletes are earning a lot," Hill said.

Brasher said: "The most important thing is the self-respect of the runner. He will get more satisfaction in getting a time of 2:07:13 than in the money he is paid."

Steve Jones chooses to work as a corporal in the British Royal Air Force, despite the considerable sums he has collected for winning the Chicago race for the past two years.

Porto loss leaves Benfica and Sporting on top

LISBON (R) — Benfica and Sporting Lisbon took over at the top

of the Portuguese soccer league Sunday when they both won to take full advantage of Porto's second defeat of the season by Guimaraes.

In-form Benfica beat Belenenses 1-0 thanks to Danish striker Michael Manniche who headed the only goal after the goalkeeper had missed a cross while

Sporting thrashed Covilha 5-0 to Sunday when they both won to take full advantage of Porto's second defeat of the season by Guimaraes.

Benfica's win was their seventh in succession following a poor start under English trainer John Mortimore.

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Barcelona humiliated at home by Betis

MADRID (R) — Champions Barcelona suffered a humiliating home defeat by modest Real Betis Sunday to leave Real Madrid three points ahead at the top of the Spanish soccer league.

Betis beat the Catalans 2-1 with the winning goal coming in injury time from Andres Alonso Ito. The result left the 80,000 fans at the Nou Camp Stadium stunned.

Real Madrid beat bottom team Celta de Vigo 4-0 at home Saturday night and repaired their morale in preparation for Wednesday's UEFA Cup third round second leg tie against Borussia Moenchengladbach who lead 5-1 from the first leg.

The key to Betis' win was in the tight marking of Barcelona's West

German midfielder Bernd Schuster. With Schuster subdued, Betis were able to control the game.

Argentine Gabriel Calderon set up both Betis goals. An accurate pass sent Spanish international Hipolito Rincón through to open the scoring in the 36th minute and an equally perfect ball at the end gave Ito his opportunity to deliver Barcelona's first defeat in nine weeks and first at home this season.

Real Madrid had no trouble in beating Celta, netting three goals in five minutes and winning 4-0.

Juanito Gomez opened the scoring in the 37th minute.

Carlos Santillana headed the second in the 70th minute and Real's star striker Hugo Sanchez completed the scoring with goals in the 71st and 74th minutes.

Eight minutes from time, Real defender Manuel Sanchez went off with a strained thigh muscle — an injury that will give Madrid an additional worry as they approach their UEFA Cup showdown.

The holders are already without Miguel Chando, Rafael Gordillo and Hugo Sanchez who will be serving suspensions.

Sporting Gijón beat Real Valladolid 1-0 in Valladolid Saturday night thanks to a goal by young Jaime Alvarez four minutes before time.

Sporting's win lifted them to second, two points behind Real Madrid, with Barcelona third.

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TIME

TENSIONS IN GREECE (Austerity measures anger voters)

WELCOME YELENA (Mme Sakharov arrives in the West)

STEP TOWARD UNITY (E.E. edges toward reform)

RAU'S RISE (Profile on S.P.D. leader)

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<p>Cinema</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>Tel: 677420</p> <p>CLINT EASTWOOD</p> <p>PALE RIDER (Colour)</p> <p>Performances 5:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>RAINBOW</p> <p>Tel: 629156</p> <p>STREET DANCE (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 5:30, 6:00, 8:30</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>AL-HUSSEIN</p> <p>Tel: 22117</p> <p>DEADLY IMPACT (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12:3 - 5:30-8</p>	<p>★ Cine-Theatre</p> <p>Philadelphia</p> <p>Tel: 3444-3446</p> <p>JOY RIDE TO NOWHERE (Colour)</p> <p>Show at 5:30/6/8:30/10:15</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>RAGHADAN</p> <p>Tel: 22198</p> <p>SITAMGAR (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 12:3-5:30-8</p>	<p>Cinema</p> <p>OPERA</p> <p>Tel: 678979</p> <p>"HOT DOG... THE MOVIE" (Colour)</p> <p>Performances: 5:30, 6:00, 8:30</p> <p>Hotel, behind Alfa cinema</p>
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4605/15	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3972/77	Canadian dollars
	2.5300/10	West German marks
	2.8500/15	Dutch guilders
	2.1090/1100	Swiss francs
	51.40/45	Belgian francs
	7.7150/200	French francs
	1722/1723	Italian lire
	203.30/40	Japanese yen
	7.6830/80	Swedish crowns
	7.6300/50	Norwegian crowns
	9.1490/540	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	320.00/320.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower after a moderately active session. Dealers said sterling's weakness following OPEC's market share news affected sentiment but the rise of 2.6 per cent in the November U.K. retail sales steadied stores. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 10.2 down at 3191.7.

Imperial Group ended 26p up at 266 having touched 271 following Hanson Trust's £1.9 billion offer for the company. Hanson closed 3p up at 211.

Banks, insurances and oils were lower while government bonds eased as much as ½ point with sterling. North Americans firmed but gold shares lost ground.

Dealers said United Biscuits proposed merger with Imperial Group was now in doubt. United closed 15p down at 237. Bowater, down 20p at 320, showed recent gains on hopes of a bid from Hanson Trust but Boots ended 19p up at 262 on speculative demand, they added. Cable and Wireless closed 12p down at 593.

In lower oils B.P. was 11p off at 545. Britoil fell 8p to 218 but Lasso halved a 10p gain to 233. Banks saw falls of around 3p as in Natwest at 659 but Barclays gained 2p to 439 against the trend. In lower insurances Prudential lost 15p to 767 and Legal and General shed 13p to 749.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 10, 1985
GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to put some extra pizzazz in completing whatever you have been doing so that when this new month starts, you will have former duties done in an intelligent manner.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You arise feeling wide awake and enthused and get right at new outlets you have started and handle them efficiently.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Show more affection for your mate and strengthen the bonds between you. Get busy expanding your business.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Discuss with partners just how to have more accord in the near future. Some new item crops up that can open the door to change.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Buy the mechanisms that can make your work more efficient and less difficult. Take it easy tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Make those arrangements in the morning for recreation later on with persons you like. Work on some talent you have.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get the situation at home improved considerably in the morning. Have guests in who have interesting ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Be charming and convince others to help you with a plan you are working on, and show generosity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think about how to get greater abundance if you are to become more prosperous. Set up a plan that is workable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are highly magnetic today and can impress others tremendously and thereby gain your aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take time to be alone with an expert and plan greater expansion for the future. One you love can also give you good ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day to add to your roster of friends and make your life more interesting. Go out and buy important items.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Get the help of those who can direct your outside affairs. Try to add to your bank account.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be blunt and direct and will want to monopolize every conversation, so teach to also listen to the views of others. Give as fine an education as you can and add foreign languages to the curriculum. There is brilliance in this chart and a possibility for an interesting career.

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS

- 1 Postcard
- 2 Collections of miscellany
- 3 Steel cover
- 4 Cuspidor
- 5 Superlative
- 6 Guiding
- 7 Track meet
- 8 Disturb
- 9 "Where's the snow?"
- 10 La Douce
- 11 Crown
- 12 City
- 13 Lacking standards
- 14 Amos
- 15 Like a diamond
- 16 Charm
- 17 Lie at anchor
- 18 After words
- 19 Be tedious
- 20 From here
- 21 To there
- 22 Church corner
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12 South African dissidents cleared of treason charges

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (R) — South Africa dropped high treason charges Monday against 12 leading opponents of its apartheid policy but said it was going ahead with the case against four others in a trial which has provoked international criticism.

The surprise move, after months of legal arguments, was announced by Attorney-General Michael Kinnear at the supreme court in this provincial capital of Natal.

He told the court all charges, including one which accused the defendants of plotting to overthrow white minority rule, were being dropped against the 12.

The four who remain on trial, and who could face a death sentence if found guilty, are Thozama Gqweta, Siba Njikelana, Sam Kikine and Isaac Ngobho, all leaders of black trade unions.

Those dropped from the case Monday included some of the top national leaders of the main group fighting apartheid, the United Democratic Front (UDF) which claims a membership of some two million.

The 16 had been charged with conspiring between 1980 and 1985 to overthrow the white-dominated government by force. The state alleged, among other things, that the group had used protest songs in its attempt to end

white minority rule.

International outrage at the trial has been underlined by a U.N. Security Council demand that charges be dropped.

The 12 freed unconditionally Monday were: Cassim Saloojee, Ismail Mohammed, Albertina Skulu, Archie Gumede, Mewa Ramogobin George Nkwane, Frank Chikane, Aubrey Mokoena, Curtis Nkomo, Essop Jassat, Paul David and M.J. Naidoo.

Skulu is the wife of Walter Sisulu, a leader of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group who has spent over two decades in a South African jail.

Another major treason trial, involving 22 people, continues in Pretoria against the background of relentless unrest in non-white townships across the country.

Some 950 people, mostly black, have died over the past 21 months of racial strife and police Monday reported four more deaths in overnight violence.

Meanwhile in Johannesburg four black people were killed in

overnight racial violence across South Africa, police said Monday. They said one man was killed, 18 were injured and 23 arrested after police fired shotguns and tear gas at workers who attacked a police patrol near the Cooke Gold Mine west of Johannesburg. One policeman was seriously wounded.

A man and a woman were burned to death when their house was set alight at Kuyilisha township near Cape Town, while the charred body of a woman was found outside a town in the eastern Cape.

Blacks accused of collaborating with the white-controlled government have been frequent targets of attacks by angry township residents.

Police reported Sunday night a blast at a post office and two other victims of weekend unrest.

In Johannesburg's black satellite city of Soweto where troops have for months been backing police in unrest control, police Monday said an elderly man was murdered at the weekend, possibly by soldiers.

An initial statement said the 60-year-old man, who has not been named, was walking through one of Soweto's sprawling townships on Saturday night when he became involved in an argument with soldiers, who beat him to death with their helmets.

Marcos' party begins election campaign

MANILA (R) — The Philippines' ruling party is putting its might and money behind President Ferdinand Marcos with an election campaign featuring slick slogans and comic books on his World War II guerrilla exploits.

"We are running scared and we have to work very, very hard," Information Minister Gregorio Cendana told Reuters at the New Society Movement (KBL) headquarters, a mansion overlooking Manila Bay.

"I think the opposition has enough favourable publicity — especially from the Western press," he said.

Dozens of workers at the headquarters shifted election posters, pamphlets and paraphernalia Monday ahead of a party convention on Wednesday to endorse his third re-election bid after 20 years in office.

Foster of the 68-year-old president, looking more youthful than in recent photographs, covered every wall. The slogans on stickers read "Marcos — proven in crisis," "Still Marcos" and "Marcos now more than ever."

Official campaigning for the Feb. 7 election begins after the convention.

The legal limit for campaign spending is three pesos (15 cents) for each of the country's 25 million voters. Asked how much the Marcos publicity blitz was costing, Cendana said: "I have no idea."

The president's lengthy rule and the issues the election will be fought over are reviewed in several pamphlets.

A question-and-answer booklet asks: "Is the government responsible for the economic crisis? No. Internal and external factors brought about the crisis... an experience shared by the rest of the world."

"What is state of the president's health? Because Mr. Marcos is constantly in the public view, his occasional absence can give rise to rumour. If he were ill he would tell the nation directly."

A booklet on the Communist insurgency details alleged rebel atrocities and assures readers that the military has the upper hand. The military reported Monday that suspected Communist gunmen kidnapped 11 party workers as they put up posters reading: "This road is a project of President Marcos."

Another booklet relates a court's decision last week to acquit Armed Forces Chief Fabian Ver, 24 other soldiers and a civilian of involvement in the August 1983 murder of Benigno Aquino, Mr. Marcos' major political rival.

Sen. Aquino's widow Corason, an opposition presidential candidate, says she holds Mr. Marcos responsible for the killing.

The Marcos campaign includes comic books with tales of his adventures as guerrilla fighter against the Japanese — he was awarded 27 medals for bravery — and his rise to political power.

"They can be taken to the Barangays (villages)," said Mr. Cendana. "The publicity programme has to penetrate the Barangays."

Past elections have been marred by irregularities and allegations of intimidation, vote buying and ballot-box stuffing, Marcos critics fear the KBL will resort to brawn and bribery this time round.

"Marcos has all the guns in the world and all the money in the world and he will use them... guns, guns and gold," Salvador Laurel, another opposition candidate, told reporters last week.

The United States has offered to send observers to ensure that the poll is free and fair.

The five-week campaign which ended Sunday was not fought on party programmes and only two opposition parties, out of the seven contesting the 53 parliamentary seats, issued any kind of manifesto.

The PNC called on voters to re-elect Mr. Hoyte, a 56-year-old lawyer, saying that the party had brought peace to Guyana and achieved improvements in the economy.

But former Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan's PPP and the other opposition parties charged the PNC with economic mismanagement which has led to Guyana becoming ineligible for international monetary fund loans due to arrears on existing loans.

The results of the voting are expected to be announced by noon on Tuesday.

Nobel Prize winners save journalist's life

OSLO (R) — The joint winners of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, Doctors Yevgeny Chazov and Bernard Lown, Monday saved the life of a Soviet journalist after he suffered a heart attack during a stormy news conference.

An Oslo hospital spokesman said Soviet television journalist Lev Novikov was in a stable but critical condition after the heart attack.

Dr. Lown and Dr. Chazov, leaders of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), spent 20 minutes trying to resuscitate Novikov.

They told reporters their efforts had failed and Novikov had died, but the spokesman said he was still alive.

He said, "quick action by this year's award winners appears to have saved his life." Novikov was still unconscious and doctors did not know if he would make a full recovery.

Dr. Lown, who thought the man had died, wept openly after he and Chazov tried desperately to save him.

British Doctor Allan Wynn, who interrupted Monday's news conference several times, said he planned to appeal to Dr. Chazov to set up an independent commission to examine dissenting physician Andrei Sakharov.

Chazov and Lown spoke to the conference about International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), which they head.

The conference was an angry affair. With Dr. Chazov, a deputy Soviet health minister, refusing to answer repeated questions about the fate of dissident physician Andrei Sakharov, the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

The two IPPNW heads will acc-

ept the Nobel Peace Prize Tuesday.

They worked in harmony, shouting in English and Russian for equipment to try to resuscitate the man, who had been photographing the news conference.

Dr. Chazov was about to answer a question from a U.S. television reporter on Soviet treatment of Sakharov when the middle-aged Soviet journalist collapsed.

Dr. Chazov, a senior official who has signed the death certificates of three Soviet leaders, arrived in Norway Sunday night. He declined to comment on Western criticism of his alleged role in a campaign to discredit Sakharov.

Dr. Wynn, head of the Andrei Sakharov Campaign, established to try to gain the Nobel laureate's freedom, declined to say how he would launch the appeal, but said he may try to gain admission to the news conference.

Other groups, including one led by a former Nobel Peace Prize Committee chairman, have said they will demonstrate outside the main hall of Oslo University when the award is presented to Dr. Chazov and Dr. Lown on Tuesday.

Dr. Lown told Reuters Sunday night he feared controversy over human rights could obscure the intentions of IPPNW, a 135,000-strong group of physicians aiming to reduce nuclear tensions by charting the effects of nuclear warfare.

Egil Aarvik, chairman of the Nobel Committee that awards the annual prize, said the Soviet Union's record on human rights, much of which he termed deplorable, should not prevent dialogue "to stop the insanity of the nuclear arms race."

Smuggled video film shows Sakharov in good health

BONN (R) — The West German newspaper Bild said Monday it had received a video film from the Soviet Union showing dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov in good health.

Bild said the 23-minute colour film, made secretly in Gorky, also showed Sakharov discussing last month's superpower summit in Geneva and criticising President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" research programme.

Bild did not say how it obtained the film, the fourth video of Sakharov it has had from a Soviet source in the past 18 months.

It said the Soviet authorities apparently wanted to disprove Western reports that the Nobel Peace laureate, who lives in internal exile in Gorky,

Sakharov's wife Yelena Bonner, in the West for medical care, has said she is anxious about him.

The official Soviet News Agency TASS said Sunday that Sak-

harov, 64, had recently undergone a check-up that showed "no negative dynamics in state of health."

"Sakharov indeed makes an astonishingly healthy impression. His movements are sure and elastic," Bild said.

The film, apparently taken by hidden cameras as in past cases, showed Sakharov appearing several times at the Gorky visa office with his wife to arrange her trip to the West.

It also showed him accompanying Bonner to the station to catch the train for Moscow, which would indicate it was shot at the end of last month.

Sakharov, in a talk with the director of his hospital, described Mr. Reagan's proposed anti-missile defence as a dangerous threat to the nuclear balance of forces but he said the Geneva summit was "a postponement of war and postponement is what we need at the moment."

Cerezo wins Guatemala's runoff polls

GUATEMALA CITY (Agencies) — Christian Democrat Vinicio Cerezo triumphed in his conservative opponent in a runoff election Sunday, becoming the civilian president after more than 30 years of almost uninterrupted military rule.

Opposing Mr. Cerezo, a 42-year-old lawyer, was Jorge Carpio, 53, a newspaper publisher and leader of the National Centre Union. They were the top vote-getters in the Nov. 3 election that saw eight candidates run with none receiving the clear majority required by law.

Mr. Cerezo is considered centre-left while Carpio is right of centre.

With about 25 per cent of the vote counted, the supreme electoral tribunal said that Mr. Cerezo had 417,436 votes, or 67.12 per cent, of Mr. Carpio's 205,467 votes, or 32.88 per cent.

Pre-election polls gave Mr. Cerezo a 2-to-1 margin over Car-

pio, who found his own political party two years ago. In the November election, Mr. Cerezo received 38.6 per cent of the vote and Mr. Carpio got 20.2 per cent.

A television announcer interviewing Mr. Cerezo early Monday introduced him as the new president and his wife as the first lady.

"We want to put to rest those old ghosts," Mr. Cerezo said in the interview, referring to the long military domination. "We are going to work for democracy."

Mr. Carpio conceded defeat shortly after 1 a.m. Monday (0700 GMT).

"We recognise that the people of Guatemala have picked the Christian Democrats to direct the destiny of the country," he said in a television interview.

"I am the winner. I am the president of Guatemala," Cerezo told Reuters three hours after the polls closed.

"I do not have the slightest

Peking University quiet on protest anniversary

PEKING (R) — A government clamp on student activism Monday appeared to have stifled unauthorised protests, with Peking University quiet on the anniversary of key anti-Japanese demonstrations.

Western diplomats said the Communist Party had brought immense pressure to bear on the students over the past few weeks in order to head off planned rallies protesting against Japanese trading practices, food price rises and corruption.

Senior Chinese leaders intervened to prevent the 50th anniversary of protests against Japanese expansionism being used as a forum for demonstrations critical of present Communist Party reforms.

On Peking University campus, students attended class normally and generally ignored official posters put up to commemorate the anniversary, a contrast to the growing student activism of the past few months.

One student, Ma Weisi, told Reuters that the Sept. 18 unofficial demonstration by Peking University students in central Peking would not be repeated Monday.

"The students who took part in the Sept. 18 rally just wanted to let the government know their thoughts on certain matters so they could help to build a modern, Socialist China," he added.

The official media Monday continued to stress the theme that while street protests were a good thing in the 1930s, they were not suitable in the 1980s when students should concentrate on helping to modernise China.

Students in Peking, Xian and Chengdu are known to have held unofficial demonstrations in September and October mixing anti-Japanese slogans with protests against food price rises and the recent growth in corruption.

Foreign sources in Xian said Chinese students had reported receiving letters from Peking University colleagues asking them to hold unofficial gatherings on Dec. 9, but added that the authorities had banned any such meetings.

At Peking University, foreign students reported a man who was apparently a plainclothes policeman stood near the place where unofficial student posters had been pasted up last month, presumably to stop any other such posters appearing.

The students said African students had been planning a march Monday to protest against police brutality following an incident involving two Sudanese students in Shanghai last month, but that the march was called off.

Pharaoh's statue may be repaired in U.S.

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — A 10-ton statue of the Pharaoh Ramses II may be brought from Egypt to the United States for restoration, according to a newspaper that has offered to sponsor the project.

"One's imagination can soar over this project," said David W. Brown, executive editor of the Commercial Appeal of Memphis. "Just think — it gives Memphis a chance to take part in the restoration of a priceless piece of antique treasure and to return it to the people of Egypt as a gift to hoot."

The 20-foot (6 metre) statue of Ramses II, who reigned about 3,200 years ago, is now lying in three pieces in the ancient city of Memphis, Egypt, about 25 kilometres south of Cairo. Ramses II, also known as Ramses the Great, reigned for 67 years, from 1292 to 1225 B.C.

Under him, Egypt acquired unprecedented splendour, with an empire extending from southern Syria to near the fourth cataract of the Nile.

Stallone awarded Sour Apple Prize

LOS ANGELES (R) — Sylvester Stallone of the Rocky and Rambo film series was awarded the annual Sour Apple Prize of the Hollywood Women's Press Club as the least noteworthy and most inaccessible star of the year. Clint Eastwood and Elizabeth Taylor were named the most noteworthy stars of the year. British actress Emma Samms and Canadian Michael J. Fox, star of the film Back to the Future, were named the female and male discoveries of the year.

Students say sexual morals too strict

PEKING (AP) — Three-quarters of university students questioned in a survey said China's traditional sexual morals are too strict and suppress human nature, a weekly journal reported Monday. The official English-language Peking Review said that only 25 per cent of students surveyed felt it was immoral for engaged couples to live together. Twenty per cent said it was understandable for some married people to have lovers, although 50 per cent agreed that adultery was immoral, the report said. Sixty-two per cent felt a woman's virginity was sacred and should be retained until marriage. The survey was taken to find out if students were being influenced by Western "sexual liberation," the weekly said.

French mime artist improves after operation

PARIS (R) — French mime artist Marcel Marceau, 62, is improving in a Moscow hospital after emergency surgery for a stomach ulcer and is expected to be flown back to Paris this week, his spokeswoman said here Monday. "It was not a minor operation, but neither was he near death, as one heard on the radio," said the spokeswoman. Soraya Graham Stuart, She said arrangements were being made to fly Marceau back to France as soon as officials at Moscow's Botkin Hospital pronounced him able to make the journey. Marceau had been in Moscow for a tour organised by the French External Relations Ministry. He collapsed on Friday and the tour was cancelled. Marceau is the world's most famous performer of "silent drama conveyed through motion, gesture and facial expression."

TV bosses warned to curb sex, violence

LONDON (AP) — British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd said that if television bosses did not curb sex and violence on the screen, the Conservative government might be forced to intervene. Mr. Hurd said Sunday that he shared Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's concern that some television programmes could be harming young children, and urged broadcasters to "set their own house in order."

He said that legislation might be introduced to clamp down on televised scenes of sex and violence considered unsuitable for viewers.

"I think we are going to have to look at this more carefully than we have in the past. Public concern is growing," Mr. Hurd said in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview.

The best answer was for broadcasters to make sure that their guidelines "are effective and are being enforced," Mr. Hurd said.

3 Ghanaians arrested on arms charges

NEWARK, New Jersey (R) — Three Ghanaian nationals were in jail Monday after being arrested by U.S. customs agents on arms smuggling charges, a spokesman for the customs service said.

Jog Botang, 44, who works as a New York taxi driver, Kwasi Baidoo, 41, a computer technician from Dover, New Jersey, and Joseph Mensah, 67, an economic

consultant living in London, England, were charged with conspiring to violate the U.S. arms control export act.

Customs agent Arthur Stiffel told Reuters the three were arrested at Newark International Airport after negotiating with an undercover customs agent posing as an arms salesman.

Stiffel said their "shopping list"

included three surface-to-air missiles, more than 100 M-16 automatic rifles, 10 anti-tank guns, 10 machine guns, 10 mortars and 10 camouflage uniforms.

Stiffel identified the three as members of the Ghana Democratic Movement, a Ghanaian opposition group. He did not say why they wanted to purchase the weapons.

Experimental cancer treatment kills patient

WASHINGTON (AP) — An experimental cancer treatment that sparked an enthusiastic response when researchers announced it last week has killed one patient who received it, a doctor said.

The therapy uses a hormone to turn the body's ordinary white blood cells into roving cancer killers that can destroy or dramatically shrink tumours, even after they have spread.

Dr. Steven Rosenberg, director

of surgery at the National Cancer Institute, said in an interview Sunday that one death had been associated with the treatment, and strongly reiterated a warning that the therapy carries potentially dangerous side effects.

"There was one patient who had cancer that had spread throughout his body. It was present in his lungs, his liver, his soft tissues, his kidneys, that did experience toxicity of the treatment and did die, and the treatment probably

did play some role in that," said Dr. Rosenberg, who also is heading the research team developing the treatment.

In the treatment, doctors remove cancer patients' own white blood cells and grow them in test tubes with a hormone called interleukin-2, which programmes the cells to seek out cancer. Then the blood cells are put back into the patients' bodies, where they are bolstered further with injections of interleukin-2.

N. Zealand not to name ships denied port access

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand will not name warships that have been denied port access under planned nuclear-free legislation, Prime Minister David Lange said Monday.

A law enshrining New Zealand's ban on nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered vessels is due to be introduced in parliament within the next 10 days.

Mr. Lange told reporters we would not disclose why warships seeking port access had been refused, saying it was an intelligence matter. "I can assure you we are not going to have public disclosure of intelligence," he stated.

Mr. Lange made it clear he was prepared to ignore a call from the

Labour Party conference in September for decisions on warship access to be subject to judicial review and to be made public.

Political parties in government had to "put aside those things which are not practical or realistic or in the interests of overall security," he added.

But Mr. Lange said that did not extend to the principle of banning nuclear weapons and nuclear-powered warships which has caused a crisis in the ANZUS defence pact between Wellington, Canberra and Washington.

"We pledged there will be no nuclear weapons in New Zealand and there will not be," he said.

Guyanese vote in general elections

GEORGETOWN (R) — Guyanese electors cast ballots Monday in general elections after a five-week campaign dominated by opposition charges of electoral fraud levelled at the ruling People's National Congress (PNC).

The PNC is bidding to extend its 21 years in power in this former British colony of 800,000 people, mostly blacks and Asians, in the first elections since the death of former President Forbes Burnham in August.

The opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has accused the PNC of rigging every election since independence in 1966. And it says Monday's poll is open to fraud because of insufficient control over ballot boxes and unavailability of precise voting lists.

The exact number of people eligible to vote in the polls — the fourth since independence in 1966 — is not known, but a preliminary list of 372,708 was published in October. There were 445,776 names on the list for the last elections in 1980.

President Desmond Hoyte's government eliminated postal voting last month and restricted overseas balloting but refused to allow foreign observers.

The five-week campaign which ended Sunday was not fought on party programmes and only two opposition parties, out of the seven contesting the 53 parliamentary seats, issued any kind of manifesto.

The PNC called on voters to re-elect Mr. Hoyte, a 56-year-old lawyer, saying that the party had brought peace to Guyana and achieved improvements in the economy.

But former Prime Minister Cheddi Jagan's PPP and the other opposition parties charged the PNC with economic mismanagement which has led to Guyana becoming ineligible for international monetary fund loans due to arrears on existing loans.

The results of the voting are expected to be announced by noon on Tuesday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TAKE YOUR TRICKS

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH			
♠ 47			
♥ 31072			
♦ 976			
♣ 10832			
WEST			
♠ K10654	♥ 932		
♦ A95	♥ 9643		
♠ 8	♥ 1043		
♣ A754	♥ K96		
SOUTH			
♠ J8			
♥ AKQJ52			
♦ QJ			

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass 3 NT
Opening lead: Five of ♠.

When you don't have a sure way to fulfill your contract, it is often sound policy to run a long suit. The defenders might find it difficult to discard. French internationalist and writer Jean Paul Meyer spotted this hand at the recent Spring North American Championships in Montreal.

Sitting South was world champion Peter Weichsel of Miami. His decision to bid three no trump was an eminently practical solution to a difficult bidding problem.

West led his fourth-best spade, won by dummy's queen. Since declarer had eight tricks and this was the only time he was likely to be in

dummy, there was a temptation to try for the contract via a finesse for the queen of hearts. Weichsel spurned this in favor of an end play. He ran his diamonds to reduce the hand to this position:

♠ 7	♥ 93
♦ 710	♥ 96
♣ 1083	♥ K9
♠ K10	♥ 93
♦ AQ	♥ 96
♣ A7	♥ K9
♠ AJ	
♥ K8	
♦ Q	
♣ QJ	

Now declarer simply exited with a club, and the defenders were left without resources. Assume that West wins the ace of clubs and exits with a club to East's king. (The same position arises if West allows East to win the first club.) If East returns a spade, declarer rises with the ace and throws West in with the king of spades. West can take the ace of hearts, but he must present declarer with the fulfilling trick by leading a heart to the king.

It is no better if East returns a heart. West can take his two heart tricks, but he must then lead away from his king of spades into declarer's ace-king tenace for the ninth trick.

Note that West must keep both heart honors. If he does not, declarer simply plays a heart to set up his ninth trick right away.

Pakistan puts down tribal revolt in Khyber Pass

DHAKA (R) — Pakistani troops put down a tribal revolt in the Khyber Pass bordering Afghanistan last week. President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq said Monday.

He told reporters peace and tranquillity had been restored in the Khyber area of North West Frontier Province (NWFP) after military action lasting about three days.

He said the rebellious Pashtun tribesmen were financed by Afghanistan and indulged in illegal arms and drugs trading.

Reports from Islamabad Sunday said dissident tribesmen fought a four-hour battle with troops at Jamrud, the British-built fort guarding the entrance to the Khyber and the route from Peshawar to Afghanistan, during a drive to stamp out Afghan influence.

The reports